



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,883

TUESDAY 30 MARCH 1999

(1R50p) 45p



## THE INFORMATION DAILY



WHAT TO SEE AND WHERE TO GO UNRIVALLED CINEMA, THEATRE & ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

# Numbed by fatigue and fear, the refugees flee Serb death squads



Exhausted Kosovar refugees in the northern Albanian town of Kukes yesterday after being ejected from their homes by Serbian forces

Santiago Lyon/AP

**'I kiss my father and my mother. I may never see them again'**

THE PLANES flew low last night and anti-aircraft fire responded from the ground, shooting into the sky. On the streets I could hear lots of Serbs shouting - cursing Albanians, Nato, America, Britain, Clinton, Blair Muslims, Turks.

At about 10pm I heard sounds of boots running up the stairs of the building where I stayed last night. (I haven't slept at home for a week.) I heard the sound of someone knocking on a neighbouring door. "That's it," I thought, "they've arrived." Still, I was amazed how calm I felt.

I have always been scared whenever I see a policeman or anyone carrying a gun (though nowadays there's a difference: Serbs only carry big machine-guns). But this time I was cool. "The worst thing they can do is kill me, so nothing can surprise me," I thought. I made a decision: "I won't try to hide my identity or my mother tongue," - Albanian, of course.

Then I heard someone running again, but now the sound was heading downstairs. No one knocked on my door but I just had to know what was going on, so I looked outside. It was a man I had spoken to before. I had met him on the street a week ago, and we exchanged a few words about the political situation (what else?). We were speaking in Serbian, and he seemed very open-

From Pristina, an eyewitness tells a harrowing tale of fear on the streets

minded and "normal". I was quite glad, as I didn't want to condemn a whole nation because of the government's politics. There are decent people among them, I thought. Until that night.

Now he was wearing a strange uniform, neither police nor military, carrying weapons and heading out into the night. The knock came from his "friend" who had come in a rush, and in the same clothes and gear, to get him. Off they went, no doubt to try to kill an Albanian or to burn a house.

Next day I would have to find another place to sleep: I wouldn't want to run into him again now. Until a few days ago, I felt sorry for the people suffering in the villages. But I don't any more. Now I too am fighting for survival. I try to stay alive but it's difficult. This morning I almost collapsed out of breath while running towards my parents' house to see if they are still OK. There's no phone, so every time I go to spend a night somewhere else, I kiss my father and my mother. I fear I won't see them again.

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HUNDREDS of thousands of Kosovars were seeking sanctuary in the high valleys of Albania last night, saying the Serbs were killing everyone who refused to leave their home. In what aid agencies describe as the biggest forced movement of peoples in Europe since the Second World War, the refugees brought reports of massacres and ethnic cleansing on a scale not seen since the Serbs swept through Bosnia in 1992.

Serbian death squads were reported to be systematically exterminating the whole of the province's intelligentsia, including members of the Kosovo delegation to the recent peace talks in Rambouillet. Fehmi Agani, number two in the delegation, was executed by the police in the Kosovo capital, Pristina, along with his family on Sunday night, according to Nato and local sources. Many writers, journalists and local politicians were thought to have been executed too.

Nato insisted air strikes were working and warplanes

BY EMMA DALY in Morini

yesterday took off from bases in Italy and Britain for a sixth night of strikes on military targets in Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro. The Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, is making his way to Belgrade today for talks with President Slobodan Milosevic.

At the border crossing in Morini refugees flooded into Albania on tractors, in old cars and on foot, carrying babies and dragging children. The children were dry-eyed, numbed by fatigue and fear. It was the adults who wept openly.

"At 5am they entered the village without warning," said Hajrula Kabashi, holding the hand of his daughter, Drenusha. "People were sleeping but soon started running. Some didn't have time even to take their children."

The people of the border village of Trnje said they had lost 37 of their number when they fled Serbs firing machine-guns. "We split into two groups to escape from them," said Mr

Kabashi, a geography teacher at the village school. "They started shooting at the group heading for [the village of] Mamusa. They killed about 37 people, including two of my fellow teachers and three of my pupils."

Further along the road, we met Jeton Vranoski, an English teacher from the same school. "We walked all through the night - they just wanted to push us out," Mr Vranoski said.

An old man lit a small fire, warming his stockinged feet. Beside him women lay asleep on the ground, wrapped in blan-

kets. All along the road, families sat on the grass, waiting for transport to the Albanian town of Kukes.

The refugees say the Serbs are systematically wiping out the Albanians of Kosovo using the terrifying methods honed in Bosnia, where hundreds of thousands of Muslims were efficiently terrorised and ejected from their homes or killed.

The Yugoslav authorities are dismissing the refugees' stories as fabrication, as they did in the past in Bosnia. But there is a consistency in the tales.

The exodus from Kosovo gathered pace before dawn on

Sunday and continued yesterday. By 8am, 60,000 people had crossed the border at Morini. In the distance we could see the Serb soldiers, strolling across a field, guarded by armoured vehicles.

Columns of smoke rose in the distance, signs of the orgy of destruction in Kosovo. Near the border post burned another small fire. It contained documents stolen from the refugees, identity cards and car papers. The refugees were even forced to remove their car number-plates.

The Serbian ethnic cleansing operation has now moved from the gutted border villages to the cities of Djakovica, Prizren and Pec.

Refugees from Pec said that Serb soldiers, accompanied by police and armed Serb civilians, drove into the town at about 10am on Sunday. "By noon we were on trucks," said Valdet Shoshi. "The whole town is clean now. They came into town, broke into apartments and took everything they could," he continued. "They

were shooting inside, spraying the walls with bullets."

Serbs looted local businesses and burnt Albanian shops and houses, said Mr Shoshi.

Many others had the same story of an organised campaign to cleanse Kosovo of Albanians. In each town and village the soldiers arrived, ordered people to leave immediately and threatened death to any resisters.

"Three old people were killed, one woman and two men, because they did not want to leave," said Florija Rexhepi, from the village of Babaj Boksi. She said they fled to the hills when Nato air strikes started, "We were in the mountains for three days - they burned our houses," she said. "But we went to Djakovica to hand ourselves over to the Serbs."

Last night there were reports that the population of Pristina, a city of 300,000, will be next.

One refugee woman recalled the jeers of the Serbs. "They said to us, 'Now Nato is going to help you. Go to America - Clinton will help you too. Tell them this place is Serbia.'"

## Salmond: Stop 'misguided' air strikes

ALEX SALMOND, the Scottish National Party leader, prompted government outrage at Westminster yesterday when he became the first British party leader to attack the legality of the bombings and compared them to the London Blitz.

The controversy erupted over Mr Salmond's televised broadcast on the Nato air strikes in which he called on

BY COLIN BROWN AND PAUL WAUGH

the West to abandon the "misguided" policy. The broadcast, which was screened in Scotland last night, caused the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, to claim that the SNP leader would be "the toast of Belgrade".

"Few people are in any doubt that President Milosevic bears

the prime responsibility for the human tragedy in the Balkans," Mr Salmond said. "However, if we are to sanction intervention in Serbia then the policy must be capable of achieving two things. It must be capable of weakening Milosevic, and helping Kosovo." Mr Salmond said a bombing campaign would achieve neither and could make both worse.

"In virtually every country which has been blitzed this century, the reaction has been to steel the resolve of the civilian population," he said. "This is what happened in London in the Second World War. It is also what happened in Clydebank."

However, Mr Cook said Mr Salmond had shown himself "simply unfit to lead". "To compare the effect of the Allied ac-

tion over Serbia to the blitz of London and Clydebank by the Luftwaffe in the Second World War will be deeply offensive not only to service personnel and their families but also to millions of British citizens," he said. "He fails to see the clear distinction between the resolve of a democracy defending itself against dictatorship and a dictatorship engaged in ethnic cleansing."



Salmond: Against bombing

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**"For every slaughter of the innocents, Milosevic should be made to pay a higher and higher price."**  
**Tony Blair**

[illegible]



# Kosovo's men of ideas are dragged from homes and shot

## PRISTINA KILLINGS

IT SEEMS like anarchy but is nothing of the kind.

Amid the burning wreckage and smashed Albanian shopfronts of the Kosovo capital, Pristina, Serbian police and other death squads were reported yesterday to be going from house to house on a mission to systematically murder the intelligentsia in Kosovo.

Direct reports from what is turning into a city of death were hard to substantiate, now that the Yugoslav authorities have expelled virtually all foreigners from the province.

But the diminishing number of reports reaching the outside world by e-mail and by the few telephone lines still working from the city point to the planned extermination of all articulate community leaders.

One of the many victims Nato confirmed yesterday was Fehmi Agani. This was no "separatist terrorist", as the regime calls the members of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army. Mr Agani was a member of the Kosovar delegation at the recent Rambouillet peace talks in France.

He was a close colleague of

Ibrahim Rugova, leader of a civilian party, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). Like him, he was a convinced advocate of passive resistance to Serb rule, though he would often ruefully joke that applying Gandhian tactics with the Serbs was a tough job.

He was an old man, usually smiling, with a oiled and crinkly white hair and a weather-beaten, peasant-like face. He was a familiar sight to any foreign journalist attending the briefings at Mr Rugova's ramshackle office in the days after Slobodan Milosevic scrapped Kosovo's autonomy in 1989. I met him many times.

It is incredible to think of men of the stamp of Agani and Rugova, bookish types in their scarves and threadbare cravats and their endless cigarettes, being dragged out of their homes and murdered by the police. But that is what is happening all across Kosovo.

Nato clearly believes what the Kosovars are telling them about the awful events in Pristina. A message from the city, from the Kosovo Press Agency, listed yesterday's

known death toll without elaboration.

"Fehmi Agani, vice-president of the Democratic League of Kosovo. Executed in Pristina by the Serbian police."

"Alush Gashi, adviser to Ibrahim Rugova, and a well-known human rights activist. Executed by the Serbian police in Pristina."

"Din Mehmeti, prominent Albanian poet. Executed by the Serbian police in Pristina."

"The Albanian intelligentsia is being murdered in the capital of Kosovo by the Serbian police," the report concluded.

"The Serbian police are executing prominent intellectuals in Pristina. They are going from door to door, rounding them up and murdering them one by one."

The editor of the main Kosovo newspaper, *Koha Ditore*,

Baton Haxhi, was also executed yesterday, Kosovar sources said. His newspaper had been a young, vital operation, everyone's fantasy of what a newspaper ought to be like, all shouting, doors banging and phones ringing. Now it is a bullet-ridden, silent place and the editor is reported to be dead.

The question is whether Mr Haxhi's team of young journalists have all met the same fate.

At a Nato briefing, Air Commodore David Wilby said Mr Agani was murdered after attending the funeral in Pristina of a prominent human rights lawyer, Bajram Kelmendi. Mr Kelmendi was executed by the police, along with his 16-year-old son - youth is clearly no excuse for the Serbian authorities - last Wednesday.

The bodies were found in the street.

Old Mr Agani had braved the fearfully dangerous streets of Pristina to pay his respects to his old comrade. After that he made the mistake of returning with his family to their home.

He and his family had been in hiding for several days. But like many people in such situations, they succumbed to a fatal curiosity to check that things were safe. They were not. The Serbian police were waiting for Mr Agani, and are reported to have executed him along with his entire family.

The fate of the other members of the Rambouillet delegation, and of Mr Rugova himself, was uncertain yesterday. There were unconfirmed reports that Mr Rugova may have been killed, though

this may have been Serbian disinformation.

The International Crisis Group (ICG), which monitors events in former Yugoslavia, said Mr Rugova was in hiding, along with Veton Surroi, one of the signatories of the Rambouillet peace deal. As a highly articulate English-speaker and former editor of the broadsheet Albanian-language newspaper *Rilindja*, Mr Surroi will certainly loom large on the terrifying "wanted list" held by the Serbian police and their accomplices among the local population.

Other writers and intellectuals in hiding are Menduh Thaci, also of *Koha Ditore*, and Dukagjin Gorani, of the newspaper's English-language sibling, *KD Times*.

Reports said journalists, writers and intellectuals cap-

tured by the police in the western cities of Pec and Djakovica had "disappeared" in the same way.

The extermination of Kosovo's intellectuals echoes events in the genocide in Rwanda, or even the earlier slaughter in Cambodia, where wearing glasses and having a posh voice was enough to ensure a bullet in the head.

But there are comparisons closer to Kosovo, particularly with the Bosnian war of 1992-5. There, too, the world was befuddled and confused by the reports filtering out of the east of the country in the spring of 1992, which told of Serbs going from house to house with lists that had clearly been drawn up months before by the SDS, Mr Milosevic's party in Bosnia.

The lists contained schoolteachers, members of non-

Serbian parties, Muslim and Catholic clergymen, and anyone else who might conceivably have been considered an opinion-former and therefore dangerous to the Serb nationalists. Those on them were executed on the spot.

In Bosnia, too, much of this dirty work fell to civilians, to once-friendly neighbours who suddenly changed almost overnight into eager killers of their former friends.

But in Bosnia, many people could escape to the capital city, Sarajevo, which, though bombed and besieged, never fell to the Bosnian Serb army. And beyond Sarajevo lay the one-third of Bosnia that remained under the control of the Bosnian government.

The worry is that in Kosovo tonight there may be nowhere to hide.



Fehmi Agani (centre) with fellow delegates at the Rambouillet talks. Agani, who advocated passive resistance to Serb rule, was killed in Pristina on Sunday. Reuters

# Albania in crisis as tidal wave of 100,000 floods in

## HUMANITARIAN AID

THE EUROPEAN Union is putting together a package of up to £7m for the Kosovo refugee crisis as Emma Bonino, commissioner for humanitarian aid, prepares to visit the scene of the disaster.

With the tide of refugees growing by the hour, she said yesterday that the priority is to provide shelter, sanitation and food for 60,000 people who have entered Albania. But EU cash may also be used to fly some of the people from the north of Albania, where roads and infrastructure are poor, to the south of the country.

The calamity which has befallen the region is causing mounting concern in European capitals, particularly in Rome and Athens, which fear they will suffer a new influx as a result.

They are likely to push next month for a Europe-wide programme of settlement for some of the displaced to relieve the pressure on the "front-line" countries.

In the meantime, Ms Bonino, who leaves for Albania tomorrow, said the region was confronting "the new face of humanitarian tragedy".

Latest figures suggest that anything between 60,000 and 100,000 people have flooded over the border into Albania.

"In Albania there are up to 80,000-100,000 refugees," Ms Bonino said. "It's almost impossible to count them." That dwarfs the numbers arriving in other countries, an estimated 5,000 reaching Bosnia and the same number arriving in Montenegro.

Jamie Shea, spokesman for Nato, said that those driving to the Kosovo-Albanian border were being forced by Serb security police to pay about £350 to leave, as well having to give up their passports and papers.

"It's almost as if their identities are being stripped," he said, adding that the move seemed designed to make any return to Kosovo more difficult.



Kosovar children are given bread after arriving in Macedonia yesterday. Reuters

Last year the EU contributed around £42m for humanitarian aid in the region, about £15m from the European Commission and the remainder from the member-states themselves.

The maximum that can be released for an emergency project is £7m, although it is unclear how much of this would be spent immediately and how much retained for the medium term. However, a commission official added: "We cannot just sit back and do nothing. We have to use the first part of the money very quickly."

The cash will be directed to the aid agencies which are active in Albania, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Oxfam and the Red Cross.

Aid experts in Brussels expect the crisis to worsen, with

a significant proportion of the estimated 200,000 displaced people in Kosovo seeking refuge.

In London, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced an inter-departmental committee to study the problem and liaise with the countries directly concerned.

Among those who lost their relatives during the journey from Kosovo to Albania was Daud Bojku, who left Kukes and went back to the border yesterday in search of a blue Opel carrying his brother and nine children.

Mr Bojku, 40, said that he had left the town of Pec 12 hours earlier when the Serbs shelled his neighbourhood.

Kosovars arriving at the border are obliged to pay \$50 (£38) for a lift to Kukes. Yugoslav and Albanian currencies are not

accepted. Those without money have to make the journey on foot.

The Albanian Prime Minister, Pandeli Majko, appealed to the population yesterday to offer refugees a place in their homes in order to "pass together these difficult days".

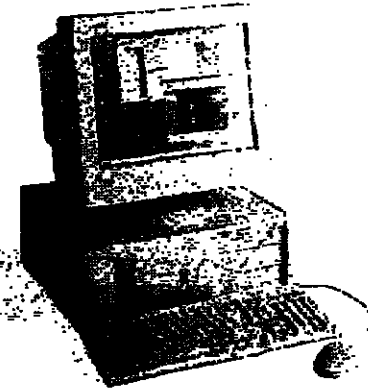
But most Albanians, especially in the north of the country, can barely feed their own families, let alone groups of strangers.

The situation in Kukes is said to be chaotic, with frightened and hungry women and children milling about in the streets, uncertain where they should go.

When a truckload of supplies arrives in the city the refugees swarm around it in search of something to eat.

KATHY MARRS AND STEPHEN CASTLE

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# Belated fear – with adrenalin flowing

## THE BRITISH PILOTS

THE RUSH of adrenalin, worries that they might make mistakes, but no fear – none, at least, until they were back in their rooms at the air base.

RAF Harrier pilots yesterday described their bombing missions over Yugoslavia. One pilot at their Italian base, which is also home to Tornado pilots, said: "In peacetime if you get it wrong you get a hard time from the rest of the formation. The difference here is that if you get it wrong, you die."

"You see something happening, you take appropriate action. It is only when you are back in your bedroom that you think about it and then there is the fear."

The pilots were speaking during a visit to the base by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who said: "The sheer professionalism, skill and commitment of these people is awe-inspiring. They are out there

every night risking their lives but they are doing it for a cause."

The identities of the pilots were not released by the Ministry of Defence, but they talked graphically of what it felt to be under threat from Yugoslavia's formidable air defence system.

One of the eight pilots flying on Sunday night found he had been "locked on" by a Sam 3 missile and had to take evasive action. He had been worried, when he was back at the base, that he had acted correctly. One of the pilots who flew on the same mission said: "I talked to the guy about it, and he was concerned that he did the right thing. He did absolutely the right thing; he can take comfort from that."

Another pilot, a tall, taciturn Englishman, said other pilots had supported the airman when he got back to base. "We talked about it very openly over a beer afterwards. We support

each other and we talk about our feelings in the de-brief. We are a very close community."

One pilot said that looking back on a mission "you can remember every single minute. What felt like an hour is all condensed in a minute. The adrenalin is definitely flowing."

That same pilot talked about the rescue of the US Stealth pilot. "It concentrates the mind and focuses the attention. His being rescued was very encouraging indeed."

Mr Robertson flew into the base with John Maples, the shadow defence minister, and and Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' foreign affairs and defence spokesman.

Mr Robertson later said: "It certainly would be frightening to most of us who do not have to experience it on a day-to-day basis. You can't help but be impressed."

JOHN DAVISON



An RAF Harrier pilot at Gioia del Colle in Italy. "We support each other and we talk about our feelings in the debrief," said one pilot

PA

# Primakov flies to Belgrade for talks

## THE NEGOTIATOR

THE LAST time Russia's Prime Minister pulled off an international diplomatic coup, a delighted Jacques Chirac sent a note to Boris Yeltsin. "Bravo for Primakov!" it read.

That was back in 1997 when, as Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov averted air strikes on Baghdad, albeit not for long. Today, as the veteran negotiator sets off to Belgrade for talks with Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, the chance of more plaudits seems remote.

Russia is widely seen as the key to persuading Yugoslavia, its traditional ally, to agree to a peace deal. France and Italy yesterday both urged on Mr Primakov, who was celebrating the International Monetary Fund's reported decision to make yet another credit to Moscow. But none will be more aware than he of the immensity of the task. Mr Primakov will fly to Yugoslavia with the Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, and the Defence Minister, Marshal Igor Sergeev – both of whom have been scathing in their criticism of Nato's bombings. Yesterday they cranked up their attacks on the West still further.

Mr Ivanov questioned the truth of reports that the Serbs had carried out genocide against the Kosovo Albanians; an Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission, stationed in Kosovo before the bombings began, saw only "individual clashes". He also said the survival of the six-nation Contact Group (UK, France, US, Russia, Italy and Germany), which tried to mediate between Yugoslavia and Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, was now in doubt.

Marshal Sergeev claimed 1,000 citizens had already died



Yevgeny Primakov: Veteran negotiator for Russia

in the assaults. And sources in his ministry told Interfax news agency that Nato had been lying about targets which were mostly civilian.

As the Russian rhetoric gathered sound and fury, the Kremlin took credit for ordering the peace mission, which will also include the head of Russia's foreign and state intelligence service. President Yeltsin's spokesman said it was "to co-ordinate steps [with Milosevic] which could help find a political solution to the conflict which has emerged because of Nato's military action". Russian news agencies said the delegation may then go from Belgrade to Bonn, presumably to talk to leaders of Nato countries.

Mr Primakov, 68, has long experience of dealing with errant dictators. In 1991, he went to Baghdad to see if he could persuade Saddam Hussein to avoid the Gulf conflict. Mr Primakov wrote a memoir whose title he will again view as apt: *A War That Did Not Have To Happen*.

PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow

# Churches urge halt to bombing

## CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

WORLD CHURCH bodies yesterday called on Nato to halt its bombing of Yugoslavia and urged the United Nations to launch new Kosovo peace efforts under its own auspices.

In a letter to the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, the leaders of four major Christian groupings said the longer the Western alliance maintained its assault, the more difficult a solution would be.

"We write to express our profound concern at the current military intervention of Nato in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and appeal to you to immediately initiate efforts of

the United Nations to seek a just and lasting peace to the conflict in Kosovo," the letter said.

It was signed by Konrad Reiser, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Keith Clements of the Conference of European Churches and Ishmael Noko of the World Lutheran Federation.

The three said the letter also had the support of the Reformed Alliance of Reformed Churches.

"The Nato-led intervention manifests the failure of the international community to achieve a credible, negotiated solution," the letter said. (Reuters)



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# Nato planes fire at Serb police force

## THE TARGETS

NATO AIRCRAFT, including those of the RAF, concentrated their fire yesterday on Serbian military positions across Kosovo in an attempt to combat the ferocious offensive against the region's civilian population.

Allied commanders in Brussels promised to "tighten the noose" around Slobodan Milosevic's war machine and in London the Ministry of Defence released graphic footage of RAF Harriers blowing up a munitions dump in Pristina.

The attack on facilities of the Serbian military police, was aimed specifically at those carrying out repression and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. But the most pressing question, according to military analysts, is just how long Nato can defer using ground forces poised on the Yugoslav borders.

Publicly both the British and American governments continued with the party line that they had no intention of introducing the troops, who would include British soldiers based in Macedonia.

In London, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, denied that the extensive publicity being given to atrocities by Serbian forces in Kosovo was preparing the public for the inevitable introduction of the ground forces.

The White House said it was not in favour of sending in troops, despite what it called a "textbook case of ethnic cleansing" by Serb government forces and paramilitaries. A spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said: "We feel that we can meet our military objectives through the Nato air campaign."

For now this includes intense attacks on Serb armour and heavy artillery inside Kosovo, with increasing use of the A-10 "Warthog" tankbuster ground attack planes. Several were seen taking off yesterday

morning from Aviano air base, in Italy, along with a number of F-16s. The A-10s can operate by day or night and are known to be extremely effective against armour. But they are low and slow-flying and thus would be vulnerable to Serb anti-aircraft fire and missiles.

The RAF Harrier GR7s, which were shown on film destroying three buildings in Pristina, are part of phase two of the military operation - the use of tactical ground attack planes. The Chief of Defence Staff, General Charles Guthrie, said: "The tempo of operations is getting faster and the focus of our operations is shifting towards actions against the forces implementing Milosevic's policy of repression in Kosovo and the infrastructure behind it."

Introducing photographs taken on board the Harrier GR7s, Group Captain Steve Parkinson explained how each of the three pilots had operated "autonomously" to take out buildings at the site. The first two bombs were on target but on the third attempt, one of the two bombs used "did not impact properly", landing on an area of open ground. The base was being used for the "processing and storing" of ammunition for several types of weapons.

President Bill Clinton returned to the White House from Camp David yesterday for emergency consultations with his national security staff, as growing evidence emerged that the conflict in Kosovo was spinning out of Nato's control.

Some congressmen suggested that action other than air strikes may be needed, but there was little indication that this opinion was widespread. Senator John McCain, a Republican, said that the US had to "exercise every option",

adding that if the threat of ground forces was raised against Mr Milosevic, "it could lend impetus to convincing him that he cannot win".

Other senators insisted that if there were to be ground forces, they should be European, not American. If legal experts from the State Department say that genocide is occurring, they may shift ground. Under a 1948 UN treaty, every signatory state has a duty to prevent such a crime, and many legal experts say that this includes military intervention.

The Yugoslav army claimed it had lost just seven soldiers in five days of Nato strikes while shooting down seven alliance planes, three helicopters and about 30 missiles.

The claims have been denied by Nato.

Lieutenant-General Spasoje Stijiljanic, commander of the Yugoslav air force and air defence system, said Nato had underestimated the readiness of the Serbs to defend their country, regardless of the number of casualties. He claimed that Nato, after hitting exclusively military targets until Saturday, had started dropping bombs and missiles on infrastructure and civilian targets, including schools, hospitals and refugee centres. "My country will defend itself to the last man and to the last combat means at our disposal."

Yesterday, Macedonia's Foreign Minister appealed to the European Union and Nato for rapid economic and military assistance. Aleksander Dimitrov said Yugoslav forces had closed in on the Macedonia border and neither his country nor the 12,000 Nato troops there had sufficient military capability to defend Macedonia.

KIM SENGUPTA AND ANDREW MARSHALL



Man and dog taking time for a greeting yesterday in Pristina against a backdrop of destruction by Nato Reuters

## THE TIMETABLE

**Monday 29 March**  
9:10am: Igor Sergeyev, Russian Defence Minister, claims Nato air strikes in Yugoslavia have killed 1,000 civilians

10:00am: Two US B-52 bombers take off from RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire

10:30am: President Clinton vows to keep on bombing until Yugoslavia halts its campaign of "brutality and repression"

11:19am: Russian leaders announce they will visit Belgrade today to negotiate an end to Nato air strikes

11:55am: Around 1,000 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo flee into Macedonia on tractors

Noon: Nato discloses that 500,000 people have been displaced in Kosovo by fighting in past year

12:10pm: Pope John Paul calls for an end to violence in Yugoslavia and says negotiation is the route to peace.

1:40pm: Albanian border at Morina reopens after it was closed for three hours. 4,000 refugees are arriving per hour

2:30pm: Part of the Kosovo capital Pristina is set on fire by Serbs

3:00pm: Macedonia's Foreign Minister says his country was "one step away" from being dragged into the war

3:15pm: Nato discloses that five leading Kosovo Albanians have been "executed", including Baron Hashim, editor in chief on the main Kosovo Albanian newspaper *Koha Ditore* and Fehmi Agani, a negotiator at the Rambouillet peace talks

3:45pm: Nato says 21 targets have been hit, seven were army and police targets

6:20pm: Yugoslav general claims his forces had downed seven Nato planes, three helicopters and 30 missiles

# Cook pledges 'we'll hunt down all war criminals'

## INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE



Wanted men: Slobodan Milosevic (left); Radomir Markovic, head of state security; Pavlovic, former head of Kosovo operations; Ojdanic, a leading hardliner

THOSE RESPONSIBLE for the regime of terror being unleashed in Kosovo will be hunted down, arrested and brought before the International War Crimes Tribunal, Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, said.

Raising the temperature on the Belgrade regime, Mr Cook yesterday underscored the message that international law against genocide will be used to prosecute those apprehended. The Ministry of Defence published names of those held accountable for the war crimes, starting with Slobodan Milosevic, with their position in the Serbian hierarchy.

The list also includes Lieutenant-General Radomir Markovic, the head of state security; Lieutenant-Colonel-General Pavlovic, formerly in charge of Kosovo operations and who is related by marriage to Mr Milosevic; Colonel-General Dragoljub Ojdanic, one of the leading hardliners, and Major-General Lazarevic, involved in directing the campaign against the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The Ministry of Defence also issued a list of 17 villages destroyed by Serbian forces since the campaign started in February 1998, with the number of inhabitants killed.

As Nato warplanes continued to pound Yugoslav defences and target troops on the ground, another kind of offen-

sive is also going on - to foment a revolt in the Yugoslav high command, it was disclosed yesterday.

George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, visiting RAF pilots at Gioia del Colle base in southern Italy, said that efforts were being made to turn military commanders away from the Milosevic regime and its "ethnic-cleansing" policy in the hope that they would stop the slaughter.

"He can't conduct 'ethnic cleansing' on this scale without troops and without commanders right down the line," said Mr Robertson. "Some of these people are proud soldiers who are not used to killing old women and young children."

Dismissing the Yugoslav Interior Ministry Police as "uninformed thugs", he said that many of the atrocities carried out over the past few days had been actions taken by individual commanders.

By contrast, he said, there were commanders in the Yugoslav Army who had grown up in the military and had decent standards of behaviour. He quoted the example of Momcilo Perisic, who was dismissed as Mr Milosevic's army chief for criticising him over his policy of confrontation with Nato.

"There are decent people inside that structure who do want to hold on to Kosovo but who do

not want to go down in history as successors to the Nazis. They are the group of people that message has to get through to," he said.

"I don't believe for a minute that there is unity of purpose within the whole regime."

Targeting these people was the reason for repeated statements on television that atrocities were being recorded and those responsible would be referred to the International War Trial Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. "We are saying to them 'we are watching, we know what you are doing, we know who is doing it, and that information is going to The Hague,'" said Mr Robertson.

The Secretary of State for Defence, who also addressed ground crew at Gioia del Colle, said the tempo of operations would now increase.

But he gave a warning that the danger to pilots would also intensify.

"Risks are very high, of course. They are obviously increasing all the time. But these are very brave people," said Mr Robertson. "This is not going to be quick and it's not going to be easy."

Operation Allied Force moved to Phase II over the weekend, allowing the direct targeting of Serb ground troops in Kosovo.

Mr Robertson admitted this

had been done earlier than planned because of the unfolding humanitarian crisis. He also conceded that the Nato attacks may have made the situation worse. "But if it has made it worse, it has made it worse for a temporary period before it gets better."

Deploying ground troops effectively to invade Yugoslavia "was not a sensible option", he said. To assemble the number of troops required would take about two months, "assuming you could find enough troops that are fit and ready to go into battle".

The British Army already has 4,800 troops in Macedonia and a total of 8,500 ready to be deployed on a peace-keeping mission in Kosovo. This brings the total of British soldiers either preparing for operations, on operations or recently returned from operations to 41 per cent of the total. This, said Mr Robertson, was the highest figure ever in peace time. Kosovo would also be the most inhospitable fighting territory imaginable.

In a show of political unity, Mr Robertson was accompanied on the visit by Members Campbell and John Maples, the Liberal Democrat and Conservative defence spokesmen.

JOHN DAVISON in Gioia del Colle AND KIM SENGUPTA

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## Mandela calls on Ulster to reach a deal

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

PRESIDENT NELSON Mandela yesterday telephoned Belfast to express solidarity with the politicians - British, Irish nationalist and Ulster Unionist - who are engaged in a last-ditch attempt to break the deadlock in the peace process.

The manifestation of international goodwill came as Tony Blair and the Irish Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, arrived in Belfast to join local politicians who were already immersed in a heavy schedule of meetings.

These included two encounters between the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Féin, who are regarded as the key elements in finding a way through the decommissioning impasse. Today is expected to bring an even more intensive round of talks.

With no clear formula yet in sight to solve the conundrum, opinion remains divided on the outcome of the talks. Many of yesterday's meetings were said to have had a positive tone, though in public the protagonists were unprepared to budge from their familiar positions.

Sources close to the negotiations say that if an accommodation is reached, it will probably happen on the basis of an agreed package consisting



Mandela: Sent a message of goodwill to all sides

of a number of elements. Central among these is the concept of mutual guarantees being swapped between the loyalists and republicans, with a clear choreography of steps to be undertaken in the coming months.

These could be witnessed and underwritten by the British and Irish governments, the US and by David Trimble's deputy as first minister designate, Seamus Mallon of the SDLP.

The IRA would be expected to provide a statement pledging commitment to the peace process and conveying a sense that it regards armed conflict as a thing of the past.

Another element in the equation may be a document, which is due to be published by

the Government, on the "normalisation" of security force activity. Some sources suggest this may go further than expressing the hope that various army bases would be closed if the major ceasefires hold.

Absolutely none of this is settled and all of it is dependent on a willingness by both sides to move from their stated positions.

The Rev Ian Paisley continued to predict that David Trimble would shift his position. Accusing him of "being in the pocket of Tony Blair", he claimed the Ulster Unionist leader would accept any form of words on IRA arms that was acceptable to the British Prime Minister. He declared: "What we are saying is - come clean, Mr Trimble. What are you going to accept in order to allow Sinn Féin into government?"

Mr Trimble's party, meanwhile, continued to insist on decommissioning. A statement said: "We are acutely aware that there are many people out there hurting as a result of prisoner releases. Well over half the prisoners have been released and still not a single bullet or ounce of Semtex has been handed over."

"We believe that the paramilitaries have failed to realise the extent of public feeling over this matter and they have totally failed to respond."



Skaters at the Albert Memorial in London yesterday before travelling through the city to monitor air quality as part of an anti-pollution campaign. Similar events were held in five other European cities

## Doctor harassed us, say parents

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

THE HOSPITAL at the centre of an inquiry into experimental treatment on premature babies has called in outside experts to examine a separate complaint about harassment of parents accused of child abuse.

The North Staffordshire Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, said allegations involving the consultant paediatrician David Southall were "potentially serious", although unsubstantiated, and it was calling in independent experts because it wanted to be "seen to be doing the right thing". The complaint relates to his work on the attention-seeking disorder Munchausen's by Proxy, which included videotaping parents abusing their children.

Professor Southall, who has been at the North Staffordshire Hospital for a decade, is now the subject of three investigations. Ministers ordered a review of research at the infirmary after complaints by parents whose premature babies were included in a study of a new type of ventilator. Of 144 who had the treatment, 28 died and 15 were brain-damaged.

The General Medical Council is conducting its own inquiry into parents' complaints that they were misled about the experimental nature of the treatment.

The third investigation, by the trust, is into the claims by parents accused of child abuse that they were "harassed" and "victimised" by Professor Southall.

In a statement issued to *The Independent* last night, the trust said it took all complaints seriously and was working to ascertain whether there was any evidence to support those made in this case.

"Given the wide-ranging nature of [the] complaints, the hospital has sought expert medical and nursing advice from outside the West Midlands Health region to assist in this process."

## Hundreds of businesses hit by Microsoft e-mail virus

ONE OF the most insidious computer viruses ever known yesterday infected thousands of computers around the world, carried by an e-mailed document with a program which pillages electronic address books to spread itself.

In Britain, hundreds of businesses had to take emergency action after discovering incom-

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

ing e-mail from the US carried the virus. Named "Melissa", it uses the combination of software weaknesses and the near-monopoly of Microsoft's word processing and e-mail programs, Word and Outlook Express.

The document, entitled "Important message from...", contains a huge list of pornographic websites, but it also carries a "macro" - a set of instructions - which is implemented when the unwitting user opens an attachment to the e-mail. Default settings in the newer versions of Word will launch the macro. That then raids the user's electronic address book and e-mails it self to up to 50 addresses.

"Sending out a pornographic document which also carries

a virus can damage your reputation - we have had financial clients and computer companies hit by this," said Kevin Street, technical manager for the anti-virus company Symantec. "In some countries it is against the law to send a virus."

In a large company, trying to send so many messages could also crash computers.

Though anti-virus companies confirmed that many businesses were hit, none was willing to be named publicly. "There's a stigma in saying you've been hit by a virus," said Jack Clark, European product manager for Network Associates, an anti-virus company.

The first "macro virus" appeared in September 1995, and affected earlier versions of Word. It is thought to have been written by a freelance programmer who was working at

Microsoft that year: the source was eventually traced to a CD-ROM issued by the company.

Macro viruses have become more and more dangerous. Melissa was recognised as so virulent that for only the second time in a decade, the Central Emergency Response Team (CERT), an American organisation which monitors threats to the Internet, issued a warning of the risks posed by the virus.

"This morning alone we had 40 or 50 companies affected by it," Mr Clark said. "That is unprecedented. Usually when a new virus turns up we get a few calls from people asking how they would know if they had it. This time, they have all had it."

Warnings about the virus only began to circulate on the Internet on Friday, too late for many in Britain to take action against it.

### IN BRIEF

#### Youths held over double killing

TWO TEENAGERS were remanded in custody by Preston magistrates yesterday charged with murdering a jeweller and his wife. The bodies of Mohammed Karim, 52, and his wife Bilquis, 48, were found at their shop in Preston on 19 March. Christopher Gavin, 18, and a 16-year-old boy, who both come from Preston, were remanded until 7 April.

#### Mother admits cruelty to child, 3

A WOMAN who abandoned her three-year-old daughter in the woods, sparking a massive police hunt, pleaded guilty to cruelty yesterday at Warrington Crown Court. Michelle Jones, from Warrington, Cheshire, admitted abandoning her child but denied causing grievous bodily harm. Ms Jones, 24, was bailed until 23 April for sentencing.

#### Malaria outbreak at hospital

A HOSPITAL launched an investigation yesterday after two patients contracted malaria. A ward at Nottingham's City Hospital was closed down and fumigated after the patients were diagnosed. It is only the second time there has been an outbreak of the tropical disease in a British hospital.

#### Skiers 'not guilty of avalanche'

THREE BRITISH men accused of "endangering the lives of others" by skiing down a closed piste at Val d'Isère and setting off an avalanche last month, were yesterday found not guilty by the criminal court in Albertville, France.

### ANNE MCELVOY



Poor Joe Ashton hadn't even got into his bath when the police arrived

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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# Celebrities sue council over library closures

AS DEMONSTRATIONS go, it was a rather civilised affair: a far cry from the great unwashed waving placards and chanting slogans. But then it was made up of the cream of London's cultural society. And it was about libraries.

Yesterday the broadcaster Joan Bakewell, the writer Deborah Moggach and the actor Roger Lloyd-Pack announced that they are mounting a legal challenge to Camden Council's decision to close three of its 13 public libraries, and raised the prospect of celebrity sit-ins featuring Ben Elton, Harry Enfield and Alan Bennett. A formal complaint will be delivered to Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, on Thursday and the campaigners, led by Plug, the Camden Public Library Users Group, hope that it will force an inquiry into the closures, which are scheduled to take place later this year.

The Labour-controlled council says the libraries are under-used and the cost of issuing books is far higher than elsewhere in the capital. It has promised to extend opening

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH  
AND LOUISE JURY

hours at the remaining libraries. But Ms Bakewell said the closure decision had been made without sufficient public consultation. "This is against the interest of the reading public and against education, about which we heard so much during the election," she said.

Mr Lloyd-Pack, who lives in Kentish Town, quoted from King Lear, and said the "scurvy politicians" of the council needed to understand that libraries were a vital part of the social fabric of a community.

The campaigners claim that the plan to close the libraries at Chalk Farm, Belsize Park and Kilburn contravenes the 1964 Libraries and Museums Act, which states that councils must provide an efficient and comprehensive library service.

The protesters, who number thousands in the borough, have already pledged to join sit-ins and promised yesterday that their campaign would become a lot more robust if necessary. Ms Bakewell said: "If we have to sit in we will but I hope it will

not come to that. Reading is a civilised activity and let's hope that a civilised campaign will work. "We are not going to go away. This is a very important issue and we will not give up."

Tom Selwyn, of Plug, said: "The elderly, disabled and mothers with pushchairs will not be able to travel to other libraries. It would cost only £200,000 out of a library budget of around £5m to keep them open," he said. A spokesman for the council said Camden has more libraries per head than any other borough and that it was only trying to achieve the best service it could.

Seven first novels from an international array of women writers are among those in the running for Britain's biggest book award, announced yesterday. Established stars Toni Morrison and Beryl Bainbridge sit alongside the first-time writers on the 20-strong "long-list" for the Orange Prize for Fiction. The £30,000 prize is awarded annually for the best novel in English and published in the UK. The winner will be announced in June.



Broadcaster Joan Bakewell leading protests at the planned closure of three libraries in Chalk Farm, Belsize Park and Kilburn Tom Craig

## Hanratty evidence hidden by police

THE POLICE suppressed evidence that could have saved James Hanratty, hanged 37 years ago for the A6 murder, his family said after the decision to refer the case to the Court of Appeal. Hanratty, 25, was executed in April 1962.

Campaigners said they were shocked by evidence uncovered by the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC), which, after a two-year inquiry, ruled the courts should reconsider the case. The family say witnesses and contradictions in key evidence were withheld at the time of the trial.

Hanratty was hanged for shooting Michael Gregsten, 36, a scientist. He was also accused of raping Gregsten's mistress, Valerie Storie, 23, who was shot and left for dead. It was alleged that after surprising the lovers in a cornfield in Dorney Reach, Berkshire, Hanratty forced them to drive to Deadman's Hill on the A6 south of Bedford, where they were shot. Charges of rape and the attempted murder of Miss Storie, who was paralysed from the waist down, were held in reserve.

The conviction was based largely on Miss Storie's recollection of her attacker's voice. She saw him for a few seconds and only picked out Hanratty at a second identity parade. There was no scientific evidence. Hanratty said he was in Rhyl, Wales - a claim backed up by many witnesses after his execution.

Yesterday members of Hanratty's legal team and family said the prosecution failed to disclose contradictions in evidence by Miss Storie. Identity-parade procedures were also

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

flawed. They also said witnesses reported seeing the car at the centre of the crime in the Derby area within hours of the attack.

This contradicts witnesses who claimed to have seen Hanratty driving it in Redbridge, east London, early in the morning. Police knew of discrepancies in the mileage on the car's odometer but failed to disclose them. The new evidence was found in statements kept in police archives.

The CCRC lists three reasons for the referral: non-disclosure of evidence; breach of rules at the identification parade and police misconduct.

Hanratty's brother Michael said: "On his last day in prison Jimmy said, 'They framed me ... I don't why but I've been stitched up.' Everything that's come out in the commission report is what Jimmy said."

Geoffrey Bindman, acting for the Hanratty family, said the commission expressed serious concern about police conduct. There was also powerful evidence that vital evidence was suppressed.

A former criminal, Peter Alphon, has been accused of the murder. He has denied it, despite earlier reported confessions. He refused to comment yesterday.

In 1996 Michael Howard, then home secretary, received a report from a senior Metropolitan Police officer which concluded Hanratty was innocent. He passed the decision on to the CCRC when it was established in 1997.

## Injustice reviews hit major delays

WRONGLY CONVICTED prisoners are being made to serve their entire jail sentences because of "major problems" at the commission set up by the Government to examine possible miscarriages of justice.

The Commons Home Affairs Select Committee said in a report published yesterday that delays at the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) were "unacceptable".

It said: "People who have been wrongly convicted will be serving out their sentence before their case has been dealt with. Furthermore, far from the situation being in hand or improving, it is deteriorating."

The committee says the demands upon the CCRC "will increase relentlessly" and calls for it to be given greater resources and to improve its efficiency.

The CCRC was established at the beginning of 1997, on the

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

recommendation of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, set up after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions of the Birmingham Six in 1991.

Only 40 cases have been referred by the CCRC to the Court of Appeal. Of these, eight have been quashed, two have had sentences reduced, and three have been lost. The remaining 27 are still before the court.

Successful appellants include Danny McNamee, accused of the Hyde Park bombing, and the family of Derek Bentley, who was hanged for his part in the murder of a police officer.

By the end of last month, the commission had received 2,325 applications, of which 69 per cent were still being considered for eligibility or substantive review.

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THERE ARE times when, staring down into the House of Lords from the press gallery, it's possible to imagine the chamber as a vast rock pool, the water so limpid that it has become effectively invisible. At the far end there's a great outcrop of golden coral and, ranged along the walls like pin-striped anemones, adhering to weed-covered ledges, their lordships themselves, waving their tendrils in response to some consensual tide of opinion. It has its fish too, some colourful, some snappy, some sleekly menacing, and yesterday it was considering the fact that several hundred of the pool's more exotic occupants were to be

plucked from the water, whipped away by the Government's House of Lords Bill, like lobsters from a restaurant holding-tank.


The Labour Chief Whip introduced the first day of debate on the second reading of the Bill by pleading with his colleagues for restraint. He had no powers to constrain, he conceded, but an average length of seven minutes per speech would be nice. Earl Ferrers rose to protest: "Does he realise that some of your lordshees are going to be restrained for the rest of their lives!"

I hadn't understood that the Government's Bill included measures to place all the hereditary

peers under house arrest but Earl Ferrers' extravagance of speech accurately set the tone for several of the Conservative contributions that followed, with their curious habit of inverting the terms of the argument — so that the belated withdrawal of an indefensible privilege could be depicted as the infliction of an entirely novel cruelty. Such is the distorting effect of life in a rock pool, where the occasional cold splash of fresh water can be represented not as a reviving intrusion from the sea beyond, but as a catastrophic disruption of that enclosed universe.

One of the most cherished delusions of the rock pool inhabitants is

## THE SKETCH



### THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

that of "service to the nation" - as if an automatic right to a place in parliament were not in truth a privilege at all, but a burden which

only the aristocracy is fit to bear. Even Labour speakers pay lip service to this fantastic notion, anxious not to hurt the feelings of their noble colleagues, though when Baroness Jay raised the matter, during her opening speech, there was a barb inside the bait; there were many ways of giving service to the country, she pointed out, whether it was by serving in the Army or teaching in a school: "All those same opportunities are now open to the hereditary peers who will leave us." And if neither of those jobs suit, they can be hospital disc jockeys or lollipop men.

Lord Strathclyde was not

soothed by this reminder that the thwarted impulse to duty could be expressed in other ways. He was still moved by the plight of the distinguished refugees who would soon be fleeing from the brutal prejudice of Labour's constitutional militia. Listing some of Lord Carrington's political distinctions he pointed out that he was to be excluded from the House, not for any sin but simply "because of where he was born." You cannot hope, he continued, "to score a knife across one of the arteries of our history and leave the body politic unaltered". This sounded rather terrifying, but for the fact that altering the body

politic is precisely what the Labour Party wishes to achieve.

Lord Carrington, incidentally, made a rather good speech himself, already moving on beyond disputes in session to ask some pointed questions about the shape of the new chamber, which he believed should be an elected body with the power to call a referendum in cases of constitutional import. When he spoke he generated a wave that splashed beyond the confines of the rock pool. Most of his colleagues could only manage ripples that rebounded from its walls, even if they convulsed themselves they were mighty surges.

TONY BLAIR yesterday dismissed as "absurd" suggestions that Serbian atrocities against Kosovo Albanians had started as a result of the Nato air strikes on Yugoslavia.

The Prime Minister said the current massacres had been planned by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic over the last two months.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Mr Blair said: "For every act of barbarity, every slaughter of the innocent, Milosevic should be made to pay a higher and higher price."

He made clear that the air strikes were continuing and intensifying amid the renewed Serb repression in Kosovo.

"It is now clear that Serb participation in the Paris peace talks was a cover for Milosevic's offensive preparations.

"In my view, our response to these appalling acts, far from halting or slowing the allied action, must be to intensify it and see it through to a successful conclusion," he said.

Addressing backbench concern over the military action, he said that no one who had seen

**KOSOVO**  
BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

the "utter, callous brutality" with which the Kosovo Albanian people had been treated was under "any remaining illusions about the nature of the Serb regime".

Mr Blair disclosed that the Department for International Development had allocated an extra £10m to an international refugee relief effort, and a joint military and civilian team would visit Macedonia and Albania later this week.

William Hague, the Tory leader, reiterated his party's support for the military action. "Nothing would be more dis-

astrous to the humanitarian situation you have described or to the credibility of Nato than if we backed out of what has now

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, called for "whatever was needed" - including the use of ground troops - to cope with the hu-

manitarian crisis, not just for "reasons of humanity but also for reasons of stability".

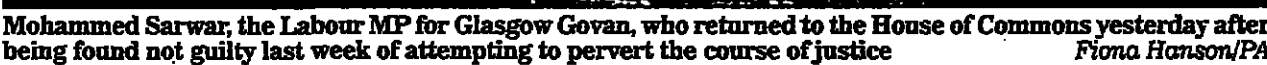
He added: "Is it not the case if the voice of the Kosovo Albanians were heard in this chamber they would be saying: 'For God's sake don't stop until the job is done'?"

But David Davis, the former Tory Minister for Europe, challenged the Prime Minister: "Could you tell us whether you predicted Milosevic's viciousness and, if you did, why was not more of the immediate military action focused on mitigating it?"

**Tony Benn, the Labour MP** who has led opposition to the air strikes in the Commons, argued that the refugee situation had deteriorated as a result and could destabilise the region.

**"What is required is UN action, a ceasefire, of the kind you urged so skillfully in Northern Ireland, and bringing in somebody of international status, maybe Nelson Mandela, to try to get the sides together before the situation gets totally out of control," he said.**

**Tory Sir Peter Tapsell, dismissed Britain's involvement in the air strikes as "historically ignorant, politically inept and internationally illegal".**



## HOME AFFAIRS

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

**JACK STRAW** stepped up the Government's anti-racism campaign last night, stressing that he wanted a society where everyone, regardless of colour, race or religion, had an equal opportunity to succeed.

Opening the debate on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, the Home Secretary announced that an annual report on progress in combating racism would be published.

**Vowing to take personal responsibility for delivering a programme of change, Mr Straw said that a steering group set up to implement the recommendations of the Macpherson report would meet for the first time in May.**

While he pledged to implement most of the 70 reforms proposed within three years, the Home Secretary renewed his "serious reservations" about proposals to allow prosecutions for racist offences that take place in private.

Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow Home Secretary, said that the murder of Stephen Lawrence, stabbed while waiting for a bus in Eltham, south-east London, was an "unnecessary tragedy" followed by a "flawed" investigation.

**PEERS BEGAN** a last attempt to change the Government's mind over House of Lords reform yesterday, as Baroness Jay of Paddington hailed legislation to scrap hereditary voting rights as an "historic first step".

Tory peers indicated that they would back an amendment by Lord Cobbold, a cross-bencher, that criticises the Government for removing hereditary peers before revealing its plans for the future make-up of the upper house. But while the Government is expected to be defeated in a symbolic vote on the amendment, peers cannot actually wreck the House of

**HOUSE OF LORDS**  
**BY SARAH SCHAEFER**

**Lords Bill because it was a manifesto pledge.**

Opening the marathon two-day debate, in which nearly 200 peers will speak, Baroness Jay, the Leader of the Lords insisted: "In this, the last few months of the 20th century, the Government believes we must finally close the political chapter of the 19th."

**"Anyone with any knowledge of our history understands the immensely important role the hereditary peerage has played in this country's counsels ...**

**But the fundamental point is that the birthright itself can no longer be sustained."**

The Government has made clear it will accept an amendment, to be introduced by Lord Weatherill, the chairman of the crossbenchers, which would retain 91 hereditaries during the interim stage between stage one and two of the reform.

However, a Government source stressed last night that any attempts by peers during the Bill's committee stage to delay its passage or call for a referendum on the issue would be regarded as a breach of such a deal.

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader of the Lords, gave an indication of the difficult battle ahead when he argued that the Lords were in a "Wonderland where nothing is quite what it seems."

Lord Cobbold, a hereditary peer, said: "Before allowing ourselves to be ejected from the House I believe that we have a paramount duty to the British people to satisfy ourselves that a successor second Chamber will be better, more efficient, more democratic, more representative, more effective and more respected than the House is today."

## New anti-drugs service begins

A NEW service to tackle the use of drugs will be launched on Thursday. Home Office minister George Howarth announced. The Home Office Drugs Prevention Service will replace the Drugs Prevention Initiative, which makes its eighth and final progress report today.

**CHRIS SMITH**, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, will lead protests to the BBC from MPs about the alleged "dumbing down" of broadcasting in the ratings war with commercial stations for higher viewing and listening figures.

Mr Smith is also to raise with the Independent Television Commission concern about the quality of programmes which followed the screening of *News at Ten* to a new timeslot.

Mr Smith faced anger from MPs on all sides yesterday in the Commons over the BBC's perceived shift downmarket. The focus for the MPs' anger was the decision to move the re-

**MEDIA**  
**BY COLIN BROWN**  
**Chief Political Correspondent**

al, "of their duty as a public service broadcaster, not only to entertain but also to educate and to inform... My personal view is certainly that accurate and full coverage of what happens in Parliament is part of that duty. I am sure that is a point many MPs will wish to make."

It was not up to the Government to make a "government view" about programming decisions. "It is up to individual MPs to do so," he said.

Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes) said: "The BBC is awash with, indeed submerged with, management strategies, management consultants and mission statements. The situation is so absurd Broadcasting House now has no broadcasters in it - solely management." Licence holders would get a better deal by having more money spent on programmes and journalists and less on "nobbled-up managers".

**LABOUR BACKBENCHERS** attacked Chelsea Football Club for its decision to stand by its coach Graham Rix, who has been jailed for having sex with a 15-year-old girl.

## Smoking costs

**Commons, 2.30pm**  
Health questions.  
Employment Relations  
Bill, report.  
**Lords, 11am**  
House of Lords Bill,  
second reading, last day.

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<b>High Wycombe</b>	£349
<b>Leicester</b>	£299
<b>Milton Keynes</b>	£399
<b>Nottingham City</b>	£449
<b>Nottingham/Derby</b>	£199
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Family Offer 2 nights	
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<b>Ipwich</b>	£299
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<b>Peterborough</b>	£299
<b>Stenage</b>	£299
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Family Offer 2 nights	
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<b>Hermit Hampstead</b>	£399
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# Commuters forced to stand for overcrowding beyond the limit

WORST LINES FOR OVERCROWDING	
ROUTE	% passengers in excess of capacity
Thameslink	
Wimbledon-Blackfriars	14.1 per cent AM
Thameslink	
Wimbledon-Blackfriars	12.1 per cent PM
Silverlink	
London Euston-Watford	10.9 per cent AM
South West Trains	
Short distance services	6.3 per cent AM
Silverlink	
Richmond-Woolwich	5.9 per cent AM
South West Trains	
Long distance services	5.8 per cent AM
Thameslink	
Bedford-Brighton	5.8 per cent AM
Thameslink	
Bedford-Brighton	5.5 per cent PM
Connex South Central	
South London routes	4.6 per cent AM
Thames Trains	
All Routes	4.4 per cent AM

BRITAIN'S COMMUTER rail network is close to breaking point, the Government's rail watchdog warned yesterday, as he published figures showing that passengers are suffering severe overcrowding.

Two commuter services into London - Thameslink and South West Trains - exceeded their permitted overcrowding limits last year.

Thameslink, which runs from Bedford to Brighton via London and from central London to Wimbledon, carried 7.1 per cent more people than the capacity of its trains allowed. South West Trains, the commuter service from London to Surrey and Hampshire, recorded 3.9 per cent overcrowding.

John O'Brien, the franchising director of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opfr), said: "Clearly, if numbers continue to grow at the predicted rate, the system will soon become overloaded. Commuter capacity is a key issue that the Strategic Rail Authority will need to urgently address."

Mr O'Brien said that both train companies must devise action plans to ease overcrowding. They may be fined or even lose their franchises if they fail to deliver.

The Opfr system, which only covers the 10 commuter services that run into London, gives train companies a 3 per cent threshold to allow for standing. Opfr said the other eight of these operators had stayed within the threshold, despite achieving an annual 3.8 per cent growth in passenger numbers.

The figures are the latest blow to the industry, following dreadful punctuality and reliability figures that prompted the Government to intervene and call a rail summit.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for transport, said yesterday that carrying more passengers was no excuse for poor performance.

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

"Passengers expect and deserve to travel in comfort. That doesn't include standing for the length of the journey," he said. "As passenger numbers continue to grow there will be more strain on current capacity. We look to the franchising director, where possible, to reduce any severe overcrowding."

The London Regional Passenger Committee, the official watchdog for the capital, said passengers on Thameslink faced "appalling problems". Rufus Barnes, LRPC director, said: "There does not appear to be a short-term solution because of the infrastructure limitations in south London."

The Association of Train Operating Companies said the rail system was "wrestling with the problems of its own success".

"We are having to cope with unprecedented growth of 25 per cent over the past four years. We have introduced 1,000 extra services a day to cope with increasing demand but we still need more trains and major improvements to track and signalling."

Railtrack last week unveiled a £27bn 10-year investment programme but only committed £1.4bn of new money to expand the network. The Health and Safety Executive said it had commissioned research into whether overcrowding affected railway safety.

Trains carrying cars will return tomorrow as a private venture, four years after British Rail axed them to save money.

Motorail aims by 2001 to take 20,000 cars off the roads each year. It will cost £860 million to put a car on the train from London to Glasgow. Passengers have to travel separately but train operators GNER, Virgin and ScotRail are offering low fares, and Motorail also hopes easyJet will offer cheap air fares for passengers.

Overall, Thameslink suffered 7.1 per cent overcrowding across its network. The next



Commuters squeezing into a Thameslink train yesterday afternoon. Companies may be fined if they do not ease overcrowding Tom Craig

## Worst offender is 'victim of success'

IT WILL come as no surprise to beleaguered commuters on the 7.51am Thameslink service from Wimbledon, south London, to Blackfriars that they are riding the most overcrowded trains on the network.

This service accounted for much of the 14 per cent overcrowding in the morning rush hour on the route, revealed in official figures published yesterday. Every morning 5,415 people travel on trains designed to take just 4,746.

Overall, Thameslink suffered 7.1 per cent overcrowding across its network. The next

BY PHILIP THORNTON

worst offender, South West Trains, had 3.9 per cent. Thameslink said it was the "victim of its own success". Passenger numbers have risen by 50 per cent since privatisation, with 12 per cent more commuters in the last year alone.

It said thousands of passengers flocked to its core route, from Bedford into central London and out the other side to Brighton, as it cut fares and improved performance.

Railtrack has pledged to spend £800m on the Thames-

link 2000 project to double capacity on a bottleneck just south of the Thames. But the project is six years behind schedule and will not be complete until 2006.

Thameslink yesterday said it could solve the problem within 14 months by building more trains and buying space on the parallel Midland Main Line to run more services. But it said the Government must extend its seven-year franchise to make the investment worthwhile.

Euan Cameron, Thameslink managing director, said: "If we do nothing then within three

years we will have a major problem north of the river. Waiting for Thameslink 2000 is wholly unacceptable."

Rufus Barnes, director of the capital's official watchdog, the London Regional Passenger Committee, said commuters suffered "horrendous problems" but said they were not all Thameslink's fault.

He said the amount of investment needed to meet the Government's targets for getting commuters out of their cars and on to public transport was beyond the resources of the industry.

South West Trains said passenger numbers had risen 24 per cent since it won the franchise in April 1996. It said overcrowding increased by just 0.1 per cent over the last year, despite a 9.8 per cent passenger growth, because of its investment in extra trains. But a spokeswoman said: "Major infrastructure investment is needed such as lengthening platforms."

Railtrack last week suggested introducing double-decker trains and longer platforms but made no firm commitments, saying other companies would have to share the cost.

The report looked at both married and cohabiting couples. Cohabiting couples were more than twice as likely to end their relationship than couples who were married.

## Official: money can buy you love

BY CHERRY NORTON  
Social Affairs Correspondent

MONEY CAN buy you love, according to new research. People are more likely to stay together if they have a cash windfall or other unexpected boosts to their finances.

But a sudden increase in the woman's earnings, or having three or more children increases the risk of couples breaking up, according to a study conducted by the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex.

The study, presented today at the Royal Economic Society's annual conference in Nottingham, was based on surveys of 5,500 couples with at least one child between 1991 and 1997. It showed that far from children holding couples together, the greater the number of children the couple had, the more likely the relationship was to break down. This risk increased if the children were more than six years old.

Renee Babin, one of the report's authors, said: "The more children, the greater the strain, with three appearing to be the breaking point."

Previous research has shown that a sudden change in economic fortune for better or for worse causes friction between couples which was thought to lead to a greater risk of breaking up. But the research shows that money is more likely to bind couples together. Those whose income suddenly exceeds their expectations are 30 per cent more likely to stay together.

"It is not how much money they have but how much money they expect to have," said Mr Babin. "People who find themselves surprisingly better off have fewer problems and less friction with their partners. They find they are in a more fulfilling situation."

Those who suddenly found themselves in a worse position were no more likely to split up than couples who were in exactly the position they expected to be. The average rate of divorce for this group was 3 per cent. Higher women's earnings increased the likelihood of couples splitting up. A breakdown of tradition and female financial independence were seen to be the main driving forces for the increased risk of separation.

The divorce rate is higher among women who earn a lot of money.

"If women have their own earning power and are financially independent they will put up with less," said Professor John Ermish, who co-authored the report.

The report looked at both married and cohabiting couples. Cohabiting couples were more than twice as likely to end their relationship than couples who were married.

## Pinochet cleared to challenge Straw ruling

GENERAL AUGUSTO Pinochet was yesterday given the go-ahead in the High Court for a legal challenge to the Home Secretary's decision to authorise extradition proceedings against him on charges of human rights abuse.

But the application for a judicial review was adjourned to allow Jack Straw to consider the issue, in the light of the law lords' ruling on the case last week, and new evidence against the former Chilean dictator sent from Spain.

The hearing will restart on the first available court date

BY KIM SENGUPTA

after 15 April, by which time Mr Straw will have reached his decision. Another application on behalf of the 83-year-old general, for habeas corpus, was also postponed until the same day by Lord Justice Laws, sitting with Mr Justice Cresswell and Lord Justice Latham.

Lord Justice Laws said: "It seems to me that the interests of justice and the duty of this court are to achieve a situation consistent with the decision of the House of Lords last week in which the Secretary of State

may reconsider the merits of this matter expeditiously but in an orderly fashion."

Clive Nicholls QC, appearing for General Pinochet, had argued that the application for habeas corpus should not be delayed as the first authority to proceed issued by Mr Straw plainly could not stand.

Any delay until after the Home Secretary had reconsidered the case would deprive the general of his right "to be set at liberty and returned to Chile". But the judges rejected his argument after being told the Home Secretary wanted time to

reconsider the case afresh "with a blank sheet of paper".

Last Wednesday, the law lords ruled that while General Pinochet did not have blanket sovereign immunity he was nevertheless immune from extradition for crimes allegedly committed up to 8 December 1988, when the international Torture Convention became binding on Spain, the UK and Chile.

This was followed, however, by the Spanish authorities issuing 33 more post-1988 charges of torture and murder against the general.



General Pinochet: Judicial review adjourned

## Failed mercy killer freed

A WOMAN who attempted a mercy killing of her husband walked free from court yesterday. Victoria Wood, 56, a toy-maker, admitted to attempting to murder Timothy Wood, 69, and was sentenced to two years' probation at Exeter Crown Court.

The court heard that Mr Wood, a former teacher, had suffered from irreversible dementia since 1993.

In 1994, Mr Wood made a "living will" indicating he did not want to receive life-prolonging treatment in the event of serious illness. In October of last

BY NICK ALLEN

year he was diagnosed as having Parkinson's disease.

On 18 October, Mrs Wood took her husband from a care home to their house, near Totnes in Devon. She later told police she gave her husband a total of six sleeping tablets, put on his favourite music - Beethoven - undressed him and lay beside him. "I then put the pillow over his face," she said. "I told him I loved him and everything would be all right."

But then Mr Wood fell to the floor and, fearing he may be injured, Mrs Wood called the emergency services and police. The court heard that she told ambulance officers: "I know legally what I did was wrong but I know morally it was right."

Mr Wood has no memory of the incident.

Mr Justice Toulson said to Mrs Wood: "I accept without hesitation that you love him and that you believed that what you were doing was the right thing, but neither the fact that your motive was to spare him wretchedness nor your conviction that you were doing right means it was right."

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# Slump in singles cuts homes need

RISING NUMBERS of couples living together have forced the Government to cut its projection of the amount of new homes that need to be built in the countryside.

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, made the claim yesterday when he published new figures showing that England would need 300,000 fewer homes than expected over the next 17 years.

Mr Prescott announced that 4.1 million new households were projected to be created by 2016, down from the last government's estimate of 4.4 million.

The number of single people living on their own, the group that makes up the largest proportion of home growth, was lower than previously calculated, while the amount of co-habiting couples was higher.

Mr Prescott said that he was publishing the projections to counter recent speculation

By PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

that he was set to revise upwards to 5 million the figure for new homes.

The Tories had worked out that England would need 4.4 million homes between 1991 and 2016, but the corrected figures now show that household growth will increase by 3.8 million between 1996 and 2021.

About 150,000 new homes a year will be needed, compared to the 175,000 a year previously anticipated, a drop that environmentalists said should ease pressure on the greenbelt.

The new statistics show that areas like the North-west, Yorkshire and the North-east are expected to need many fewer new homes, although the pressures on the South-east and South-west remain similar.

Mr Prescott said that although the figures were im-

portant, he wanted to move away from the "predict and provide" culture that had dominated the issue of housebuilding for the past 20 years.

The statistics were not predictions, but based on what might be expected if previous trends continued, he stressed.

"Such trends can and do change as a result, for example, of demographic or economic factors, as the new cohabiting assumptions show," he said.

Mr Prescott said the Government wanted to meet housing needs by setting a target of 60 per cent of homes to be built on urban, brownfield sites, and by allowing local planning authorities and regional development agencies more flexibility.

"Our emphasis is on urban renaissance, making our towns and cities places where people want to live," he said.

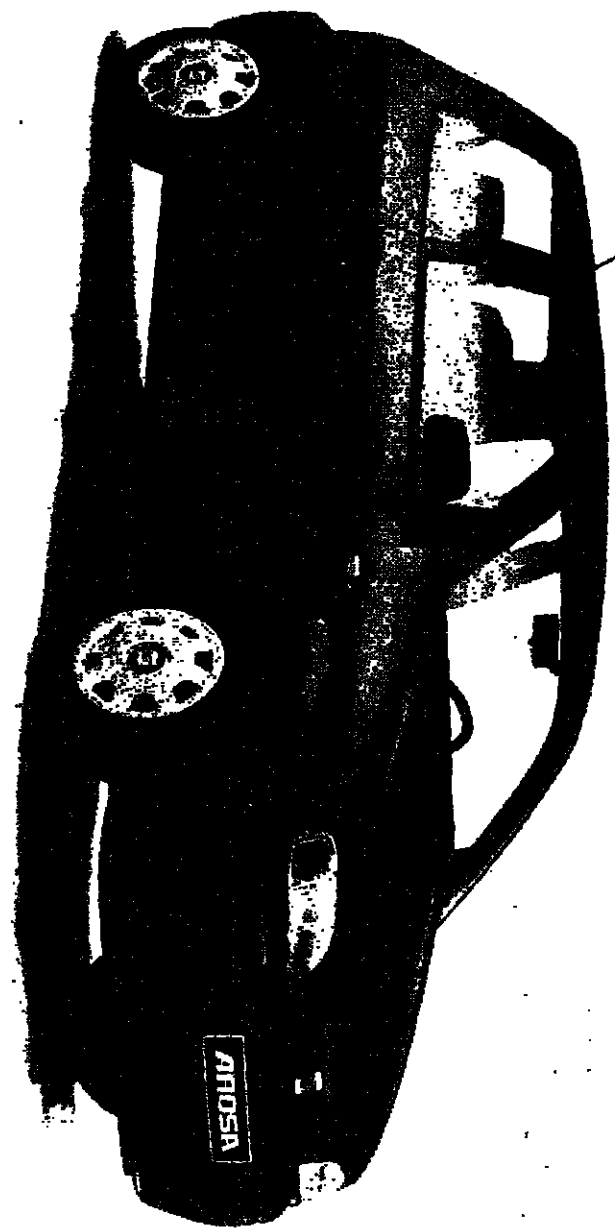
Tony Burton, of the Council for the Protection of Rural Eng-

land, said that the volatility in the figures proved that the Government was right to move away from the "predict and provide" strategy of the Tories.

However, although the projections had fallen, they still showed 20 per cent more homes would be needed over the 25-year period, a fact that put huge pressure on the countryside.

"Rural England will receive scant relief from a fall in the household projections unless the Government acts with greater urgency to undo the damage of past policies."

The Housebuilders Federation countered that the figures proved that new housing was vital if the nation was to meet the demand. The federation's spokesman said the Government's push to build on brownfield sites ignored the reality that the demand was highest in areas like Swindon and Suffolk, where new jobs were being created.



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**SEAT**  
Enjoy yourself



Gordon Brown at a London nursery yesterday. He promised to 'break the cycle' of poverty

Neville Elder

## Poverty shown to damage ability in two-year-olds

By CHERRY NORTON  
Social Affairs Correspondent

POVERTY DAMAGES a child's chances in life before they reach the age of two. Research has shown that those born into the lower social classes perform much worse in educational and development tests at 23 months than those in the top social classes.

The findings, released yesterday in a Treasury report, *Tackling Poverty and Extending Opportunity*, show children in the top social classes perform 14 per cent better than those in the manual and semi-manual classes. These differences continue to widen when the children start school.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said: "When we came to power we found that two children in five are born poor and are growing up in poverty. Their lives are damaged by low incomes before their life's journey has even



Even baby's skills are defined by class John Lawrence

begun." Mr Brown said the Government was committed to eliminating inequalities and poverty, defined as living on half the average wage. Initiatives such as the introduction of the minimum wage, increases in child benefit and tax credits for families would lift 700,000 children out of poverty, he said.

"[Inequality] is bad economically and does even greater

damage to society. We are determined to create more opportunities which will ensure that people are given the life chances, the education and skills they need to find jobs and break the cycle."

The six-month study showed that the gap between the rich and poor in the UK has widened sharply in the last 20 years, a trend that is unique in

Europe. Inequalities in Ireland, Italy, Portugal, France, Germany and Holland have been reduced or kept stable. The figures show 12 million people, or a quarter of the population, are now living in poverty. Four million of these people are children. This figure is three times the number in 1979.

Although people in the top income bracket have seen their wages double in the last 20 years, those in the lowest fifth of the population have seen a mere 15 per cent rise.

The poor are less likely to become educated and move out of the cycle of unemployment and menial jobs. A child's chance of ending up in the top-earning quarter of the population was four times higher if their father's income was in the top quarter. Nearly two thirds of people living in poverty came from families where no-one worked. The number of workless households has more than doubled in the last 20 years.

## Model's lover jailed for her murder

By SHENAI RAIF

THE JEALOUS lover of Kadamba Simmons, a model and actress, was yesterday jailed for life for her murder.

Yaniv Malka, 22, a former Israeli soldier, had strung up Ms Simmons' naked body in a shower and then made half-hearted attempts on his own life to make it look as though she had died in a suicide pact.

But a jury at the Old Bailey rejected his claims and found that Malka had strangled Ms Simmons, 24, before placing her neck in a noose.

Judge Elgan Edwards told Malka: "Kadamba Simmons

had her whole life ahead of her. It was a life of great promise. You deprived her of that life. You caused suffering to her and great suffering to her family and friends."

Outside the court, Ms Simmons' father, John Simmons, 50, said: "For Kadamba's mother, her sister and I, the essence and truth of our beloved daughter remains untouched. The love she gave and the love she generated will never die."

Detective Sergeant Richard Briers said: "This was an act

born out of jealousy. Yaniv Malka was a very jealous man. He made the decision that if he could not have Kadamba, no one else would. It is a very sad, tragic case, but justice has been done."

Malka showed no emotion as he was sentenced for the murder last June at a friend's flat in Islington, north London. He had pleaded not guilty.

The naked body of Ms Simmons, a former girlfriend of Liam Gallagher of Oasis, was found hanging in the shower the day after Malka was seen apparently trying to commit sui-

cide on the roof of a building in central London, David Walter, for the prosecution, told the court. Malka told police: "I have killed my angel." He had left an elaborate trail of blood, knives, pills and bleach to make it seem as if he had tried to kill himself.

Malka said the couple had decided to die after returning to Europe from Goa in India, where they met, because they thought they could not stay together.

But Mr Walter said the real reason behind her death was that she had decided to end their relationship.

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Julie Ward  
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JP 11/15/50



# Giuliani feels the heat after custody death

ALREADY UNDER siege over the shooting of an unarmed black immigrant in the Bronx seven weeks ago, the New York City police department faced fresh turmoil yesterday as the trial opened of five officers accused of beating and torturing a Haitian citizen while in custody.

The political atmosphere in the city has already been electrified by the Bronx shooting. In that incident, an immigrant from Guinea, Amadou Diallo, was shot in the hall of his apartment building. The four white officers fired 41 bullets; Diallo was struck by 19 bullets and died instantly.

Protests have been staged daily outside police headquarters in Manhattan, with the Rev Al Sharpton, the black rights advocate, leading those accusing the police department of racial harassment and human rights abuses. The crisis has engulfed Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who rose to national prominence on the crime-fighting issue.

The last of the daily Diallo protests - which have led to about 1,000 arrests - was held yesterday. Mr Sharpton vowed, however, to bring his followers to the Brooklyn courthouse throughout the torture and beating trial.

Thus, there is no relief in sight for Mayor Giuliani, who has been tipped to run for a US Senate seat next year, possibly against Hillary Clinton. That aspiration may now be in doubt, however, with a new poll showing his approval rating slumping to just 40 per cent, from 60 per cent six months ago.

The Brooklyn trial centres on the case of Abner Louima, a Haitian. Prosecutors will allege that two years ago, four officers beat him inside a squad car, while later two of them sodomised him with the wooden handle of a panga inside a Brooklyn precinct station. A fifth officer is accused of covering up for his colleagues.

The Louima case became the first symbol of a long-simmering grievance among New York's minority communities: that the Mayor's widely-touted embrace of the zero-tolerance

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

approach to busting crime had given licence to the police department to trample on normal human rights and civil liberties. Minority leaders contend that police officers on the streets systematically target innocent young blacks and Hispanics. The most common complaint is that officers habitually subject young non-whites to a so-called "stop-and-frisk" while showering them with racist epithets. Officers need only the flimsiest of pretexts for slamming citizens against a wall or onto the pavement to search them.

The Louima trial could last until the summer. Some fear that acquittals in the case could lead to racial tensions in New York boiling over, perhaps triggering riots of the kind in Los Angeles that followed the police beating of Rodney King, a black



Giuliani: Policies cause rift with ethnic minorities



Louima: Allegedly beaten and sodomised by police

motorist. Prosecutors contend that Mr Louima was hospitalised for two months after the assaults and treated for a damaged bladder and perforated rectum.

Among those representing Mr Louima will be Barry Scheck and Johnnie Cochran, both veterans of the OJ Simpson defence team. So far, however, the unrest in New York has been confined to political rhetoric, the daily protests and acts of civil disobedience outside police headquarters. Among those who have been arrested in the Diallo protests, and then released, have been Mr Sharpton himself, former New York mayor David Dinkins, the Rev Jesse Jackson and Susan Sarandon, the actress.

Anger over the Diallo shooting may ease slightly tomorrow, when the Bronx District Attorney is expected to confirm that all four of the officers involved will be charged with second-degree murder. The unsealing of the charges was delayed for two days to allow Diallo's parents to travel from overseas to witness the charges being filed.

Mayor Giuliani has only in the last few days attempted to heal the rift between himself and the city's minority leaders. Many observers believe that he has moved too late, however. "Whether this will destroy him, I doubt it," remarked former mayor Ed Koch, a staunch critic of Mr Giuliani. "But it certainly has injured his reputation and his place in history."

Also in the political cauldron is Howard Safir, the New York City police commissioner. His chances of survival have not been helped by the exposure in the tabloid newspapers of a trip he took to the Oscar ceremony, at the expense of a leading cosmetics company, when the Diallo crisis was at its peak. Last Friday, Mr Safir announced his resignation to the Street Crime Unit, to which the four officers in the Diallo case belonged. He plans to recruit 60 new officers to the team - all of them from ethnic minorities - and has decreed that uniforms be worn at all times during operations.



A youth injured in clashes with police is carried into the Senate to be greeted by Paraguay's new president (wearing a sash) Reuters

## Paraguay's new leader vows to end violence

AS FEARS of a military coup subsided, Paraguay's new President, Luis Gonzalez Macchi, pledged yesterday to attack the country's endemic poverty and bring to an end five days of violence that forced the resignation of his predecessor, Raul Cubas.

BY PHIL DAVISON  
Latin America Correspondent

Mr Gonzalez Macchi, 51, previously speaker of the Senate, took over after the surprise resignation of Mr Cubas on Sunday night. Tens of thousands of Paraguayans immediately took

to the streets to celebrate his departure, wrapping themselves in the national flag and singing the anthem; they let off fireworks and honked their horns into the early hours of yesterday.

Violence had erupted on the streets following the assassination last Tuesday of vice-pres-

ident Luis Maria Argana, 66. The killing happened in broad daylight in the capital, Asuncion, and during weekend violence four anti-Cubas demonstrators were killed and 100 wounded. Most Paraguayans, including the Congress, accused Mr Cubas and his military mentor,

General Lino Oviedo, of ordering the killing as part of a power struggle within the long-ruling Colorado party. Mr Cubas denied involvement and said he had resigned in an effort to restore calm in the country amid rumours of a military coup.

## US Republican urges softer line on abortion

ONE OF the leading presidential candidates from the Republican Party in the United States has warned that its hard-line stance against abortion may damage its chances in next year's elections and should be toned down.

Senator John McCain of Arizona, who is regarded as a dark horse who could take the nomination if George Bush Jr falters, says that the party should return to its pre-1980 position, when it expressed opposition to abortion but acknowledged it as a question of conscience where there were differing views.

Mr McCain was throwing down the gauntlet to local party organisations, especially in the south, which have made absolute opposition to abortion a precondition for granting party

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

funding to candidates for political office. The "pro-choice" stance of Christine Whitman, the Republican governor of New Jersey, severely limited her ability to solicit funds, and she was re-elected in 1997 by only the slimmest of margins.

The party caucuses have the determining voice in the selection of the presidential candidate, and for a generation a firm anti-abortion line has been the first hurdle for any aspiring candidate. In 1986, the party went further, saying that unborn children "have a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed".

Mr McCain's comments were the latest sign of a retreat

from this position. The last presidential election showed a wide gender gap in the Republican vote, with many fewer women voting for Bob Dole than men, and abortion was seen as one factor. Both leading candidates for the Republican nomination - George Bush Jr and Elizabeth Dole - have stayed away from committing themselves on the issue.

An alteration in the party's stance on abortion would be the first real evidence that the influence of the religious right was starting to wane. A precursor was the American public's response to the Monica Lewinsky affair, where attempts by the party to campaign on a strictly moralistic platform were a liability in last year's mid-term elections.

## Julie Ward court goes back to murder scene

PARK RANGERS and staff at a lodge warmly welcomed the man charged with the murder of a British tourist when the court moved yesterday to the Masai Mara game reserve where the remains of Julie Ward were found 11 years ago.

Some of the workers at the Keekorok Lodge hugged Simon Ole Makallah and chatted with him while he waited to enter the makeshift courtroom in the lodge.

The defendant, now an assistant director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, was the Masai Mara reserve's chief game warden and lived at the camp when Ms Ward, 28, was killed. Speaking in Swahili, a lodge employee, Joseph Sakarri, assured Mr Makallah, "God is

BY GEORGE MWANGI  
in Masai Mara, Kenya

with you", while his colleague, Simon Tolu, consoled with, "God will help you".

Mr Makallah, 49, was in the group of searchers which found the mutilated and charred remains of Ms Ward in the south-eastern corner of the reserve on 13 September, 1988. Officials determined she may have been killed up to six days earlier.

Her father, John Ward, a hotelier who has spent a personal fortune trying to bring her killer to justice, began his testimony last week in Nairobi in the second trial over her death. In the first trial in 1992 of two park rangers charged with Ms Ward's death, Mr Makallah was

a prosecution witness. The rangers were acquitted for a lack of evidence, and the judge criticised police for conducting a flawed investigation.

In a quick session yesterday, the prosecution put Mr Ward in a witness box to remind him he was still under oath, before the court and journalists moved in a convoy of six vehicles to several locations. These included a post office near the lodge, where Mr Ward said he had received a report radioed in by Mr Makallah that his daughter's remains had been found, and a campsite where Ms Ward and two male friends had stayed overnight.

Today the court will travel to the spot where Ms Ward's vehicle was found.

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# Kidnappings boom in lawless Gaza

A COOK in a seafood restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean in Gaza might imagine he was not employed in a dangerous trade. But Rafiq Yusuf Abu Hasira, working in the popular Salaam restaurant in the centre of the city, found that even a life devoted to preparing fish and shrimp did not save him from the spreading tentacles of the 11 Palestinian security services.

A month ago he was kidnapped by Palestinian Military Intelligence, headed by Moussa Arafat, a cousin of the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat. Jocular stories circulated in Gaza about intelligence offi-

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Gaza

cers objecting to the quality of the food they were served in the Salaam. By another account Mr Abu Hasira's detention was connected to his late brother's alleged links to the drugs trade.

The kidnapping turned out to have a more prosaic explanation. Military Intelligence wanted \$50,000 (£31,000) to let Mr Abu Hasira go. They never got it. The Salaam is the favourite eating place of foreign diplomats visiting Gaza and the story of the abduction became well known. On 8 March Mr Abu Hasira was released.

He was lucky. Foreign diplomats estimate that Military Intelligence has carried out 20 kidnappings of local businessmen and refused to release them except for cash. Not surprisingly, many potential targets now only move outside their houses accompanied by armed bodyguards.

"Power in Gaza is flowing to the security services," says one diplomat. "You only do business with their permission." Just at the moment when Mr Arafat is threatening to declare a Palestinian state on 4 May, the civil institutions of his Palestinian Authority are disintegrating. Ministries, courts

and even Mr Arafat's political organisation, Fatah, are marginalised.

Mr Arafat has always ruled through multiple and competing security services. His methods in Gaza are little different from those in Beirut 20 years ago. The result is a luxuriant growth of security services, ranging from Preventive Security, the most powerful, to General Intelligence, Force 17, the presidential guard and the Special Security Services. There is even a naval intelligence, though Mr Arafat has no navy. Small in size, even this organisation is to be feared. In 1996 it tortured to death a local

businessman in Nabhus, a town on the West Bank, using an electric water heater.

The security services ignore the court system. In 1995 Mr Arafat set up special state security courts which supersede the judicial system. Trial is by military officers, is held in secret and there is no appeal, though the Palestinian leader can confirm, increase or reduce prison terms. The special courts also pass death sentences.

Exactly how these special security courts operate is illustrated by the trial of Colonel Ahmad Abu Mustapha, a member of the Palestinian border guards, a video tape of which

was seen by *The Independent*. It is a nasty case. Colonel Abu Mustapha, 54, a Bedouin, was on trial accused of raping a six-year-old boy named Saed Abu Shaleh in Gaza last month. The victim picked him out at an identity parade.

Proceedings are summary. A witness for the prosecution gives a rambling account of what he knows. There is no cross-questioning. Col Abu Mustapha vigorously denies the charges. He says he was at home asleep when the rape took place. He adds: "I never saw this boy before in my life. I didn't do this. The court isn't acting justly."

Col Abu Mustapha, looking as if he is about to collapse, pleads with the three grim-faced Palestinian officers judging him. He asks them to re-open the investigation. One of the officers says: "Don't give a speech." Col Abu Mustapha replies: "I am not giving a speech. I am asking the court to reinvestigate. If I had done it I would have gone to the court myself."

He does not finish his plea. One of the blue-uniformed policemen standing behind him in the dock places his hands on Col Abu Mustapha's shoulders and forces him back into his seat.

Col Abu Mustapha is not

kept long in suspense over his fate. After a brief adjournment the judges return. They give him 15 years' hard labour for the rape. But for the peculiar offence of "motivating people against the Palestinian Authority" they sentence him to execution by firing squad. There is applause in the court room.

The colonel looks stunned. He looks down as the camera zooms in on his face and a policeman jerks his head back so the cameraman can get a better shot. A few hours later Mr Arafat confirmed the sentence and Col Abu Mustapha was shot dead.

## Winnie stakes claim to the family home

IT IS A humble township address - Vilakazi Street, Soweto - but a group of people, including Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, are headed for the highest court in South Africa to prove ownership of it.

The small house, where Nelson Mandela lived with his first wife, Evelyn, and where he brought Winnie after their marriage in 1958, was given last year by the South African President to the Soweto Heritage Trust.

The President's former wife, who for two years has run a museum on the site, claims it was not his to give away, especially since the "navels" - umbilical cords - of her children are buried there. She claims that the trust and the President are conspiring against her.

Meanwhile, for five rand (50p), tourists and Soweto residents can see the house where President Mandela began his African National Congress career, and to which he returned after his release from jail in 1990.

The plaque by the door says "Winnie Mandela and Family Museum". The museum has 1,000 visitors a month and, at the back of the house, visitors may buy souvenirs, including

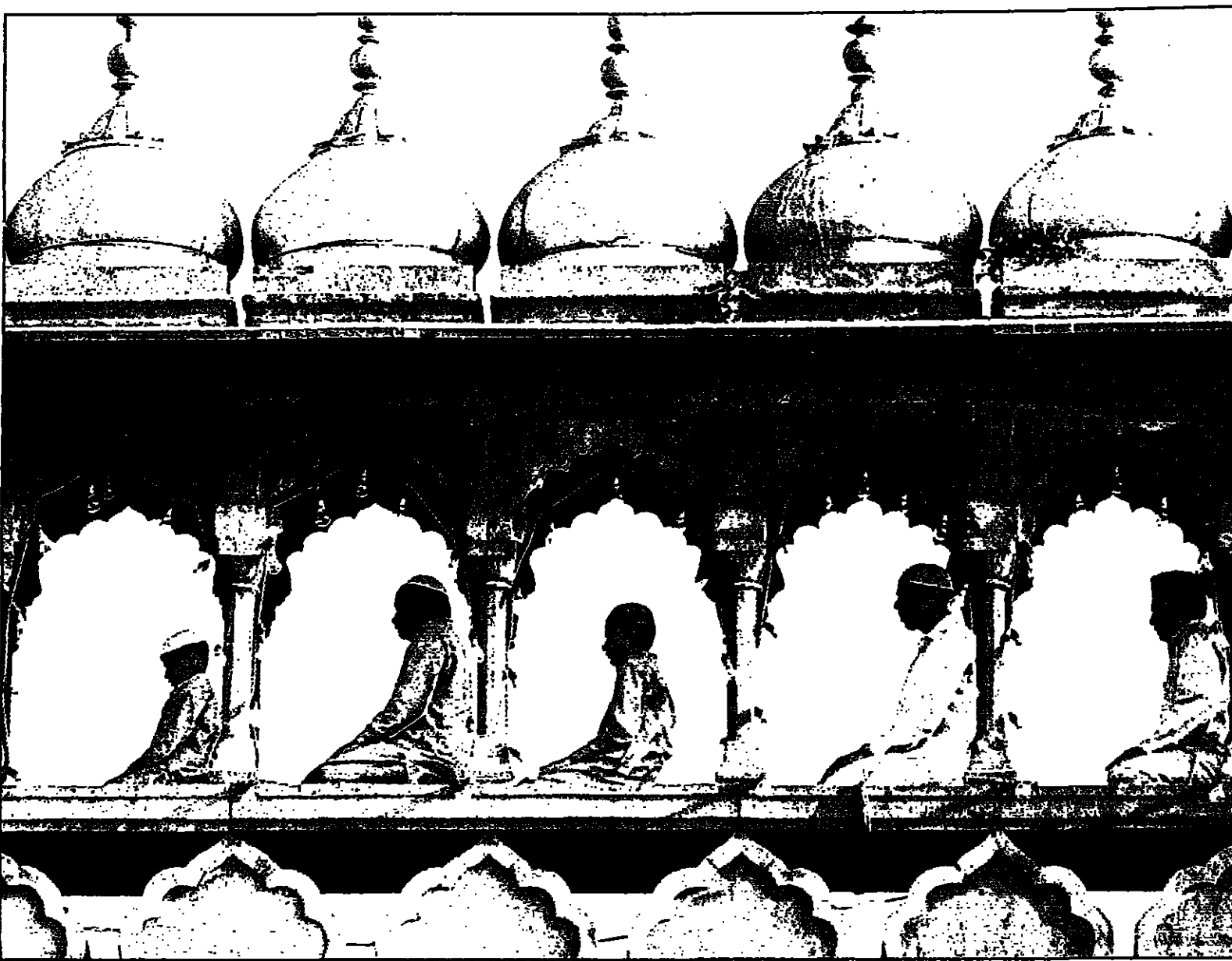
BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH  
in Johannesburg

soil from the property. Ms Madikizela-Mandela lives in a grander Soweto house some way away.

The trust, which controls several sites linked to the struggle against apartheid, claims the house is the property of "the people of the world". Sydney Phuti, chief executive of the trust, said: "The place is not meant for one person. It belongs to the people of South Africa and the world."

A spokesman for Ms Madikizela-Mandela said: "Winnie is the defendant. The trust has made a deal with the President to get her out."

In a country where for years black people could not legally own property - except in government-created "homelands" - this is not a clear-cut case. The trust says that when President Mandela handed over Vilakazi Street he had bought it from Soweto council. But Ms Madikizela-Mandela claims that the council sale, in 1997, was illegal. She says the council did not deal property with her 1985 application to buy the property.



Prayers at the Jana Masjid mosque in New Delhi, India, yesterday as Muslims celebrated Id al-Adha for the end of pilgrimage to Mecca. AFP

## 87 killed in India quake

BY SUNIL KATARIA  
in Rudrapur, India

AT LEAST 87 people were yesterday reported killed after an earthquake rocked the Himalayan foothills. Officials fear the final death toll could rise into the hundreds.

The quake, which was felt across northern India, western Nepal and southern China, brought down houses on thousands of people as they slept.

The first tremor, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, came at 12.35am yesterday morning. Officials expect the number of casualties to rise because the tremors devastated houses in Chamoli, a semi-urban area of 50,000 people, and the neighbouring district of Rudrapur. Both were close to the epicentre in the Garhwa hills.

Police said rescue efforts were hampered by a series of post-quake landslides in the region, which is dotted with the villages of subsistence hill-farmers.

The earthquake appeared to be the strongest in the Himalayan foothills in 94 years. In April 1905, an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale killed thousands in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh state. In 1991, at least 1,500 people died when the area was hit by a quake measuring 6.6 on the scale.

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## River bank floats along bringing flow of deposits

CITY LIFE  
BANGKOK

WHILE MOST of Thailand's banks are nervously navigating the treacherous waters of Asia's biggest financial crisis, one small branch is still afloat and flourishing. Literally.

Six days a week a faded blue-and-white vessel plies the canals of the Chao Phraya river in Bangkok, bearing bank customers to and from their homes. The boat belongs to the Government Savings Bank (GSB), which prides itself on being the "people's bank" and on bringing banking services to the remotest of communities.

The staff of this particular branch need more than a head for figures. On a rainy day the boat lurches alarmingly, causing even the manager, Danai Makplek, to turn a little green as he signs withdrawal slips on a seesawing surface. "If it gets really bad I go and sit on the roof and look into the distance," he says.

The engine makes a head-splitting roar and the stuffy cabin is cramped and cluttered but at least there's no fear of getting caught in one of Bangkok's notorious traffic jams. The 5,000 or so riverside customers are always in a good mood too - no need to worry about parking the car or standing in a queue when the bank stops at the bottom of the garden.

Mr Makplek loves the job. "I go to the customers instead of them coming to me and I get to meet them all. I feel a lot freer than in the office." Customers indicate they would like a visit by sticking a bank-issue blue flag on a pole outside their wooden houses, which stand above the river on stilts. As the boat approaches, they saunter barefoot to the end of their jetties or wade through the ankle-deep murky brown water sloshing over their front steps. A bank clerk then extends a long bamboo

pole towards them with a red plastic sieve on the end, into which they drop their savings and bank book.

Anyone over the age of six can open an account with the GSB with as little as one baht - less than half a pence. Many of the students, housewives, farmers and monks who live along the river have less than a pound in their accounts; the wealthiest has up to £16,000. Some disperse with the flag, paddling up to the side of the bank in a small wooden boat and handing their earnings over the side.

Being a state-run bank, the GSB has not done badly during the recession, with customers regarding it as a safer option to commercial banks. In 1997, when the crisis kicked in, it managed to mobilise more savings than the previous year. Last year it decided to attract

even more customers by opening a branch in a school. The experiment was a huge success, with a thousand students depositing almost £3,000 between them in the first two weeks.

The river bank has been serving its customers for 45 years. On this particular day, when the abbot of one of the many temples dotted along the canals requests a visit, all the bank's staff members, minus the captain, disembark and make their way to his house. Shedding their shoes outside the door, we enter a gloomy room piled high with dusty books and Buddha images. As we kneel on the floor and bow, he explains that he wishes to withdraw £3,300 from the temple's account for renovations. But he has mislaid his savings book. Could the bank stop again tomorrow?

After more kneeling and bowing, we file out reverently, relieved to know that at least some of Bangkok's citizens still have money to play with.

SARAH STRICKLAND

## Suu Kyi rejects funeral 'offer'

AUNG SAN Suu Kyi, Burma's opposition leader, will not accept the offer by Burma's military government to let her travel to Britain for the funeral of her husband because she does not believe she would be allowed to return, diplomats said.

Ms Suu Kyi's husband, Michael Aris, a professor of Tibetan studies at Oxford University, died of prostate cancer in the Churchill Hospital in London on Saturday, his 53rd birthday. The military government had refused to grant him a visa to visit Burma to see his wife for the last time.

The government told Ms Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, that it would guarantee she would be al-

lowed to return to Burma provided she conducted no political activities while abroad. Ms Suu Kyi spurned the offer. Her aides said she did not believe the military government, which they pointed out has a history of not honouring its promises. It did not recognise the results of a 1990 national election which Ms Suu Kyi's party won.

After her husband's death, the military government renewed its offer to allow her to travel to Britain for the funeral. But Ms Suu Kyi will not accept the offer, still believing the government will not allow her to return to Burma.

She will hold a Buddhist ceremony for her husband on Friday. (AP)

## IN BRIEF

### Malaria infects 1.5 million Yemenis

MALARIA HAS killed about 15,000 people in Yemen within the past year and nearly 1.5 million people - or 10 per cent of the population - are suffering from the disease, Yemen's health minister said yesterday. About 99 per cent of the patients are suffering from a virulent form of malaria known as falciparum, Abdullah Abd al-Wali Nashir said.

### New case of BSE found in France

THE EIGHTH case this year of bovine spongiform encephalopathy - mad cow disease - has been detected in south-western France, officials said yesterday. The milk cow, born in February 1995, was from a herd in L'Aveyron. The herd of 156 cows was slaughtered and incinerated over the weekend, the Agriculture Ministry said.

### China gets tough on fake Viagra

THE CHINESE government has ordered tougher measures to halt sales and production of fake versions of the impotency pill, Viagra. The State Drug Administration had issued an order to local offices to root out copies of American-made Viagra and to confiscate and destroy them, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said.



# BUSINESS

## Kosovo effect sends euro plummeting to record low

THE EURO sank to another record low against the dollar yesterday as fears over the escalating action in Kosovo prompted a flight to safety in the financial markets.

BY LEA PATTERSON  
to close to Kosovo for geographical comfort.

helped undermine the currency, as did the resignation two weeks ago of the entire European Commission.

historic movements in the currencies of the 11 participating countries - suggests the euro is now close to decade lows.

speculation of a cut in European interest rates at the ECB's next meeting on 8 April.

that French manufacturing activity contracted this month.

### BRIEFING

#### M&S to cut 200 head office jobs

MARKS & SPENCER yesterday announced that 200 jobs will be lost in the buying and store development functions at its Baker Street, London head office as the new chief executive, Peter Salisbury, continues streamlining the business. Mr Salisbury said: "The changes being implemented are essential to run our business in a more efficient, flexible and responsive way. We are confident this new structure will have a positive impact on communications and decision-making throughout M&S: improving the service and products we offer customers by giving more responsibility to managers closest to them."

#### French Connection ahead in style

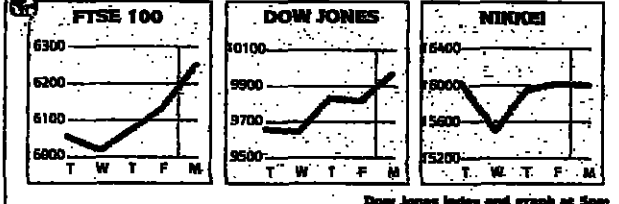
SHARES IN French Connection jumped 105p to 485p as the fashion chain reported a 27 per cent rise in full-year profits and a 20 per cent dividend hike. Stephen Marks, the chief executive (pictured), said trading was "pretty good" in very difficult market conditions. He said that with worldwide brand recognition for both French Connection and Nicole Farhi rising, the group is planning "further considerable expansion", especially in the US and Australia, but also in Europe.

For the year to 31 January the company reported pre-tax profits of £10.4m against £8.2m a year earlier, leading to a final dividend of 3.25p, giving a total payout of 4.25p against 3.25p.

#### Bemrose to return £43m after sale

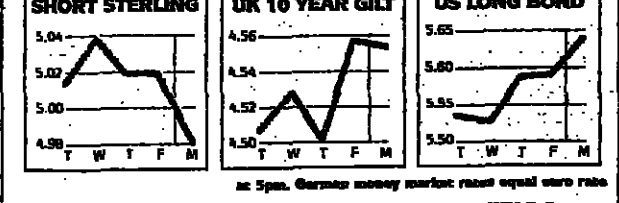
BEMROSE plans to sell its US supplier division to Norwood for £80m and return £43m to shareholders via a special £1-a-share dividend, the printing and promotional products company said. It will seek to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares after a 13-for-20 consolidation. Dealings in new ordinary shares, after consolidation, will start on 17 May. The US business has not shown enough growth due to a weak performance by the calendar business, it said. Bemrose shares hit 370p before closing at 315p at 3.29p.

#### STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6252.90	113.70	1.85	6355.40	4589.20	2.50
FTSE 250	5469.40	15.50	0.28	5970.90	4247.60	3.14
FTSE 350	2973.70	47.00	1.61	3024.90	2210.40	2.60
FTSE All Share	2878.34	43.30	1.53	2923.83	2143.33	2.65
FTSE Smallcap	2894.50	0.20	0.01	2793.80	1834.40	3.62
FTSE Technology	1301.70	3.20	0.25	1517.10	1046.20	4.08
FTSE AIM	854.70	5.30	0.62	1146.90	751.30	1.14
FTSE Europe 100	2912.21	55.00	1.93	3075.27	2018.13	2.00
FTSE Europe 300	1256.77	18.11	1.54	1332.07	880.63	1.92
Dow Jones	9978.47	158.18	1.61	10085.31	7400.30	1.39
Nikkei	16008.84	-8.15	-0.05	17609.89	12787.90	0.84
Hang Seng	10888.47	-114.84	-1.06	11874.74	8244.79	3.24
Dax	4878.92	101.75	2.13	5217.83	3823.71	1.67
S&P 500	1305.74	22.82	1.78	1323.88	923.32	1.23
Volvo	2469.47	50.45	2.09	2533.44	1357.09	0.28
London 300	6657.30	22.40	0.34	7837.70	5320.90	1.59
Brazil Bovespa	10857.02	-6.42	-0.08	12339.14	4573.69	4.98
Belgium Be20	3254.37	26.42	0.82	3713.21	2626.26	2.02
Amsterdam Eux	334.56	9.00	1.71	600.85	368.58	1.83
France CAC 40	4153.65	37.94	0.92	4484.84	3881.21	1.74
Spain IBEX 35	36493.00	843.00	2.37	39170.00	24178.00	1.06
Madrid IBS 35	3748.10	89.00	0.92	10888.80	6869.50	1.80
Irish Overall	5252.96	-3.23	-0.06	5581.70	3732.57	1.59
S Korea Comp	601.07	-5.72	-1.43	651.85	277.37	1.07
Australia ASX	2974.00	-22.60	-0.75	3005.20	2386.70	3.11

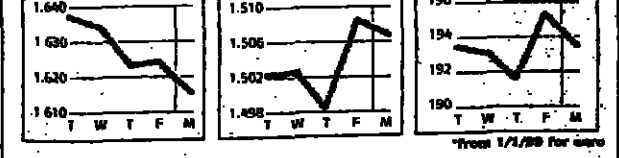
#### INTEREST RATES



#### MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Yield
UK	5.34	-0.25	5.25	-2.34	4.56	-1.38
US	5.00	-0.09	5.25	-0.63	5.64	-
Japan	0.19	-0.56	0.26	-0.45	1.82	-0.07
Germany	2.98	-0.57	2.98	-0.83	4.05	-0.85

#### CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
Dollar	1.6148	-0.020	-1.27	1.6772	1.4592	0.9962
Euro	1.5062	-0.206	-14.07	1.4079	1.1415	0.9571
Yen	193.35	-11.65	-5.92	221.20	131.97	0.07
S Index	103.80	-0.10	-0.09	108.30	100.30	0.07

#### OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
Oil (US)	14.33	0.20	1.41	14.91	11.04	Mar
Gold (US)	280.65	1.00	0.36	302.25	260.33	Mar
Silver (US)	5.09	0.04	0.80	5.38	4.50	Mar

#### TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4720
Austria (schillings)	20.08
Belgium (francs)	59.00
Canada (\$)	2.3878
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8428
Denmark (krone)	10.94
Finland (markka)	8.7265
France (francs)	9.5921
Germany (marks)	2.8710
Greece (drachma)	474.63
Hong Kong (pounds)	12.19
Ireland (pounds)	1.1483
Japan (yen)	61.74
Spain (pesetas)	6.0768
Switzerland (francs)	2.842
Italy (lira)	191.12
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9532
Malta (lira)	0.6233

The new European currency is set to weaken further in the coming days amid continued uncertainty in the former Yugoslavia, analysts said, with some predicting that the European currency could fall to as low as \$1.05.

Yesterday, the euro slipped to \$1.068, its lowest rate yet and almost 10 per cent below its post-launch highs. Against sterling, which like the dollar is seen as a safe haven in times of political uncertainty, the euro set a new low of 66.05p.

"Kosovo is the straw that is breaking the camel's back," said Paul Meggyesi, currency analyst at Deutsche Bank.

Ken Wattret, economist at Paribas, said: "The Kosovo situation has had a pronounced effect on the euro at the end of last week. The markets are looking for a safe haven, and at the moment that's the US dollar. The euro zone is perhaps a bit

#### BP Amoco bid powers stock markets higher

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

BP AMOCO'S takeover of Atlantic Richfield (Arco) is set to value the US oil company at more than \$26bn (£16bn) after a new bout of merger fever caused a sharp rise in share prices on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday.

The all-share deal is due to be unveiled tomorrow or on Thursday following board meetings of the two oil companies. It will turn BP Amoco into the world's second-biggest oil major behind Exxon-Mobil.

BP Amoco shares surged 4 per cent on confirmation of the

merger talks, helping the FTSE 100 index of leading shares to close 113.7 points higher at 6,252.9. BP Amoco is the biggest constituent in the index, which was also boosted by takeover speculation in the pharmaceuticals and publishing sectors.

Shares in Arco rose by more than 10 per cent to \$72.75, helping drive the Dow Jones higher. The BP Amoco offer had been expected to value Arco at about \$77, but the rise in its own share price may raise this to above \$80.

The merger is expected to produce cost savings of around \$1bn, principally through rationalising their joint operations in Alaska where BP Amoco and Arco operate the Prudhoe Bay field. Arco has already pledged to trim costs by \$500m under a rationalisation plan that will cost 1,200 jobs.

But there is also likely to be a goodwill write-off of up to \$6bn as the deal will be classed as a takeover under international accounting rules. Last year's \$2bn link-up of BP and Amoco was classed a merger.

Analysts united yesterday in welcoming the BP Amoco-Arco deal, describing the two companies as a good fit and praising the BP Amoco chief executive, Sir John Browne, for steering a march on Royal Dutch Shell.

The deal is unlikely to run into major regulatory hurdles as Arco's petrol retailing is focused on the US West Coast, where it has 1,700 stations and a 26 per cent of the California market. BP Amoco's operations are mainly on the East Coast and in the Mid West.

Outlook, page 15

## Industry demands energy tax let-out

BY DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST energy users are seeking an exemption from the new climate change levy proposed in this month's Budget in return for signing binding agreements to improve their energy efficiency.

Industry representatives rejected the offer of a 50 per cent reduction in the energy tax proposed by the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott at a meeting yesterday.

"We are disappointed the Government has linked energy efficiency agreements to the tax, and we are looking for a zero rate of tax," said Graham Funnell, head of environmental policy at the UK Steel Association, one of nine sectors represented at the meeting.

But Mr Prescott said industry had already benefited from substantial reductions in energy prices. "Companies will be able to exchange part of their liability for the climate change levy in return for commitments to environmental gain," he said.

The objections to the environmental tax, which comes

into force in April 2001, follow the row between the Government and road hauliers over vehicle excise duty for heavy lorries announced in the Budget.

Lisa Waters, economic adviser to the Energy Intensive Users Group (EIUG), said: "It is important people understand it was not a win, win. Budget. It was lose, lose if you work in manufacturing. The Government has failed to grasp the effects of

this tax on the competitiveness of UK manufacturers."

The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions and Treasury are to hold further meetings after Easter with industry representatives, including steel, chemicals, paper, glass and food manufacturing.

One of the objections is that the climate change levy is not fiscally neutral. Although the revenues raised will be returned

to industry through a reduction in employers' national insurance contributions, most energy-intensive businesses employ relatively few people.

British Steel estimated that in the worst case the levy would cost the company £200-300m, compared with a £5m saving on its national insurance bill.

The industries are also alarmed that the Government plans to impose the tax on com-

panies that meet their energy use targets. This would raise costs at a time when many manufacturers are struggling with the effects of the strong pound and recession in important markets overseas.

Some of their biggest foreign competitors are also unburdened by efforts to meet the international climate change targets. These include China, Brazil, Korea and India.

## LucasVarity chief gets £4m pay-off

VICTOR RICE, the controversial chief executive of LucasVarity, is to leave the car parts and aerospace group with a payoff of over £4m following the \$4bn takeover by its US rival TRW.

BY FRANCISCO GUERRERA

come vice-chairman of the enlarged group and the head of its automotive division, following January's cash bid by TRW.

However, in a last-minute U-turn, Mr Gorman is believed to have withdrawn the offer, asking Mr Rice to remain simply as a board member and a part-time consultant.

The Lucas chief executive has still not replied to Mr Gorman's proposal. But even if he accepts a reduced role, Mr Rice

will still receive a \$4m-plus compensation package agreed in 1996 when Lucas merged with Varity.

Lucas and TRW declined to comment yesterday but industry observers said that Mr Gorman's decision is a huge blow for Mr Rice.

During the takeover negotiations, he defended the TRW offer against a competing bid from Federal Mogul and repeatedly said that he wanted to play a major part in the enlarged group.

The boardroom shake-up came after Lucas became embroiled in a row with the unions after putting its car wiring division up for sale.

The AEEU engineering union said the sale of the business, which employs 4,000 people in the UK, could see the closure of a plant in Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, with the loss of 700 jobs. Ken Jackson, the AEEU general secretary, said that he would ask the company to guarantee the future of the factory at a meeting next week.

Meanwhile, it emerged yesterday that Paul Brett, the chief executive of Thomson Travel, received a £3.2m one-off payment from the publishing group Thomson Corporation, the holiday group's former owner, following last year's flotation. The chief operating officer Roger Bunnell got a £1.45m windfall.

In another development, Rana Talwar, the chief executive of Standard Chartered, the financial house, received a 28 per cent pay rise last year to £1.09m.

Olivetti's move comes just two days after Telecom announced plans to spend 23bn euros in cash buying the 40 per cent of Telecom Italia Mobile, its mobile subsidiary, that it doesn't already own. Telecom had planned to offer shares for the stake, but switched its bid to cash after shareholders' pressure.

The plan, which needs approval from 30 per cent of shareholders at a meeting scheduled for end-April, would increase Telecom's size, making it impossible for Olivetti to fund a bid. But Karel van Miert, European competition commissioner, yesterday cast further doubt over Telecom's plan when he said an integration of the fixed line and mobile businesses would raise competition problems.

Olivetti's new offer consists of 6.92 euros in cash and 2.90 euros in bonds for each Telecom share, with shares in the Olivetti subsidiary Tecnotec accounting for the balance.

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

FOOTSE, encouraged by more evidence of corporate activity, jumped 113.7 points to 6,252.9.

Supporting shares were firm but most of the action was directed at blue chips. Hopes of lower interest rates and a strong New York display during London hours also helped sentiment. Imperial Chemical Industries, on hopes of a 22bn disposal, led the blue chip charge with a 34p gain to 561p. BP Amoco, talking merger with Atlantic Richfield, gashed 40p to 1,077p peak.

Derek Pain, page 17

#### NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES index climbed 158 points to 9,988, just 20 points off the 10,000 mark by mid-afternoon, boosted by a rising technology sector, with IBM the top gaining component.

The Nasdaq gained 30 points to 2,448. Amazon.com gained 8 per cent after the online book seller unveiled plans for an Internet auction service, and Intel rose 2 per cent on reports the cost of the year 2000 for the world's largest chipmaker would be 30 per cent less than forecast.

#### TOKYO

THE NIKKEI 225 closed virtually unchanged - off 0.05 per cent at 16,008.84 - after a rally supported by gains in global blue-chip manufacturers ran out of steam.

Traders expect the average to gain ground when the new business year starts on 1 April on hopes that Japan's cash-rich pension funds will allocate fresh money to the market.

Shares in Nissan Motor rose modestly on weekend news that the Japanese car maker and Renault had signed an alliance.

#### HONG KONG

THE Hang Seng Index fell 1.1 per cent to 10,687.47 as poor results from New World Development Co stoked concerns that property developers' earnings will be below expectations. New World Development, Hong Kong's fourth-largest property developer, fell 1.9 per cent. The tycoon Li Ka-shing's Cheung Kong Holdings, which reported worse-than-expected earnings last week - also due to large provisions for falling land prices - fell 1.8 per cent.

#### PARIS

THE BLUE-CHIP CAC-40 ended 0.92 per cent higher at 4,153.65, amid hesitant trade ahead of today's Federal Reserve meeting.

"The lack of a short-term trend is likely to last, with the euro at its lowest level against the dollar and the Kosovo conflict provoking splits among euro zone countries," said one strategist. Renault closed up 2.94 per cent, trailing early gains of more than 7 per cent, but recouping some recent losses, as investors were encouraged by promises of big cost savings.



News Analysis: On Thursday UK technology stocks get a separate sector. But is it too late, and has it been botched?

# IT sets out its own market stall

ON THURSDAY 1 April, Britain's information technology sector formally comes of age when it is awarded its own sector on the stock market. In a long-awaited move, the Stock Exchange will finally create a separate sector to house all 112 UK listed IT firms, from FTSE 100 giants such as Mipsys down to the smallest AIM-listed tiddler.

In the stuffy corridors of the Stock Exchange, the date for launching the sector may have passed without comment. But many in the British IT industry may wonder whether the whole exercise is an elaborate April

By PETER THAL LARSEN

Pool. While the spirit behind the move generally wins praise, the detail has come in for intense criticism.

In particular, FTSE International, the agency which handles Stock Exchange classifications, is accused of yielding valuable ground to rival markets by waiting until now to create the sector. It has also been criticised for trying to squeeze a fast-changing industry into narrow definitions by dividing the IT sector into six sub-sectors (see table). "It's much too late," says

Richard Donner, a director of Granville, the investment bank. "It's a couple of years since this was first discussed, and in the meantime the European markets have stolen a march on London. The whole thing feels as if it's been done incredibly grudgingly."

Of course, London already has an IT sector of sorts. Late in 1997 - under pressure from US investors who wanted to be able to spot Britain's technology stocks and mindful of the steady flow of British companies choosing to list on the Nasdaq exchange for technology com-

panies - it created a sub-division of the Support Services index for IT companies.

The move had an immediate impact, highlighting the relative undervaluation of British IT companies. Investors piled in. In a little over six months the index almost doubled in value.

But the boom was short-lived. The market meltdown of the autumn hauled the index back to its starting level. Only recently has the index again approached its highs.

What's more, the original sector was more notable for the companies it left out than the ones it embraced. It was essentially a software and computer services sector, including large companies such as Mipsys, Logica, Sema, CMG and Sage. But genuine technology companies such as Psion, the handheld computer maker, and Filtronic, the supplier of telecom equipment, were left out.

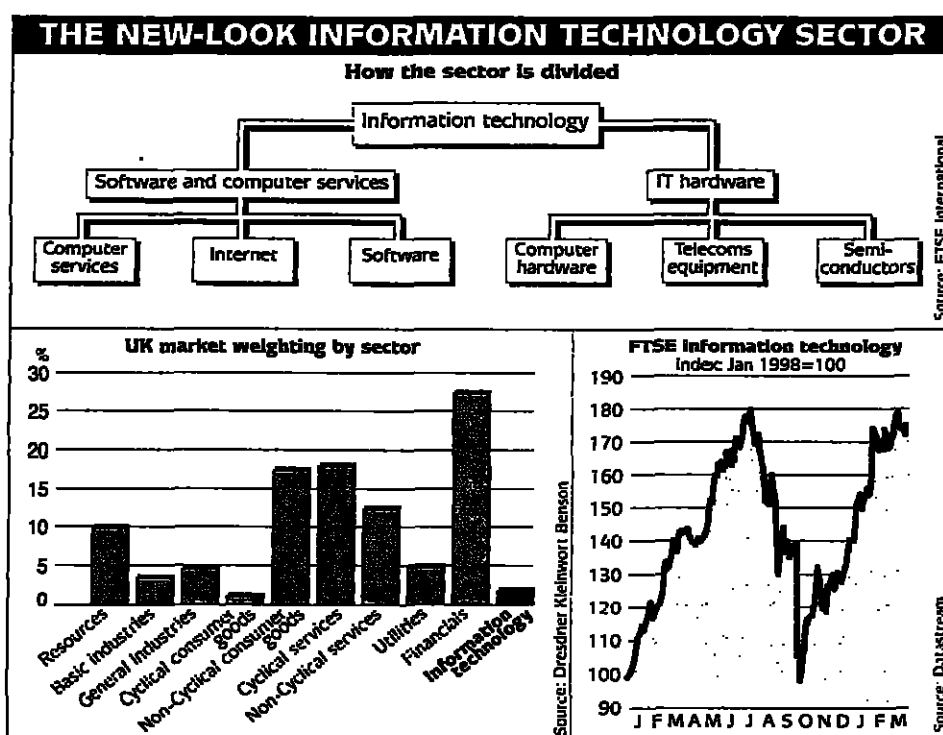
Recent changes fix that discrepancy. By turning information technology into a so-called "economic group" with sub-divisions for services and hardware, most companies that would rank themselves as IT stocks have been included.

However, a further set of subdivisions has proved less popular. To almost universal amazement, FTSE International decided to create specific sub-sectors catering for Internet, semiconductor and telecom equipment companies. What's more, the allocation of companies to these sub-sectors was questionable, to say the least.

Zergo, the Internet security



Not everyone welcomes the move: 'Premature, meaningless and damaging' is one analyst's view



## Ayling's Polish connection

BOB AYLING, the chief executive at British Airways, was at Wembley for England's 3-1 victory over Poland on Saturday. Strangely Mr Ayling had to spend the match surrounded by a large Polish contingent. Does Mr Ayling have some Polish connection we haven't heard about - or was he the victim of a ticket mix-up?

The former, it would appear. Mr Ayling was a guest of Lot, the Polish airline, which had bought 50 tickets for the game. In fact he spent the game sat next to Lot's president, Jan Litwinski. Lot and BA have a code-sharing arrangement, whereby both airlines can plug into each other's sales networks.

There was only one downside to Saturday's hospitality - the Polish fans were kept behind in the stadium to give the England fans time to disperse. I'm sure Mr Ayling made good use of this networking opportunity.

## Mirroring Virgin

MIRROR GROUP has poached Virgin Net's chief executive officer, David Clarke, to set up its own Internet division.

Mr Clarke, 50, helped Virgin Net win the Internet Service Provider of the Year Award for 1997. He will now become man-

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

aging director of "new media and interactive services" at Mirror Group, the division that already runs the UK's fifth most popular website.

Mirror Group has big hopes for its website, which registered 20 million "hits" in January against 2m for the same month last year. More than 8m of those are on the Sporting Life site, and the division also has an on-line betting service developed with the Tote and called TotalBet.

Mr Clarke started his career at Hewlett Packard and had stints with Digital and Compaq before joining Richard Branson's Internet venture in June 1997. Mr Clarke's first task will be to launch the Mirror's free Internet service provider in the next few months, which is still under development.

## Silverstone

LORD HESKETH will announce this afternoon how he intends to save Silverstone from the clutches of Nicola

Foulston, the chief executive of rival racing track Brands Hatch, as well as hostile bidder John Lewis, a former Silverstone executive.

The British Racing Driver's Club, of which Lord Hesketh is president, owns Silverstone, scene of Stirling Moss's many Grand Prix triumphs.

The club was stung into conducting a complete review of its operations after a £4m bid from Mr Lewis last year, and indications since then that Ms Foulston may launch a bid of her own directly to the club's 800 members.

Tomorrow Lord Hesketh will present his proposals, put together with adviser Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, to the Club's membership, which is packed with top racing drivers such as Damon Hill, Martin Brundle and Michael MacDowall. The members will then vote on the club's future.

Lord Hesketh's main idea is to create a separate company that will rent Silverstone from the club, and which may be floated in a couple of years' time.

## Paribas beauty

PARIBAS RECENTLY published a research note on the global media industry which featured a picture of an attractive woman on the front cover.

The sales desk at Paribas was deluged with phone calls from fund managers eager to meet "Andrea Azimundi", the name on the cover of the report.

When they discovered that Andrea is in fact a male, Italian, not to say bearded analyst at Paribas, the callers strangely lost their enthusiasm.

## CIA's error

THE END of the tax year is nigh in Britain. And it's 31 March, according to the website belonging to the Central Intelligence Agency, which helpfully sets out the information that its operatives have gleaned on various countries.

How strange of the American spooks to make such an elementary error. Maybe the last time that a CIA agent stirred out of McLean, Virginia, with a mission to investigate the UK tax year was 1854.

It was that year, according to Britain's Inland Revenue, that the end of the tax year was fixed as 5 April - and has remained so ever since.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

## IN BRIEF

### ICI in talks to sell chemicals assets

ICI YESTERDAY confirmed it was in talks with Huntsman, the US's biggest privately held chemicals maker, and others to sell bulk-chemicals assets as it revives efforts to divest less profitable units. ICI shares closed up 34p at 561p on hopes it may be able to sell more low-margin units to focus on specialty chemicals. Reports over the weekend said that ICI was in talks to sell units worth about £2bn.

### EU stalls jet law

AN AMERICAN threat to ban Concorde flights to US airports if the European Union went ahead with outlawing old, noisy jets was lifted yesterday after EU transport ministers decided to wait a month before adopting the law. A meeting in Brussels had been due to rubber stamp the legislation, but the US Congress's threat to refuse to allow Concorde to land at American airports and veiled threats from the Clinton administration that "open skies" air traffic liberalisation talks could be disrupted in retaliation, persuaded EU ministers to step back from the brink of another trade war.

### Rise in savings

THE SAVINGS rate in the UK has increased since the 1980s. People are saving more to protect themselves against a sudden loss of income and saving more for retirement because of the privatisation of pensions, according to research presented yesterday at the Royal Economic Society annual conference. The UK saving rate climbed from 6.2 per cent in 1988 to 11 per cent in 1997.

### Scout.com

SCOUT.COM, the information services group, was formerly known as FreePages Group, not, as described in an article last week, Talking Pages. Talking Pages, which was launched nationally in 1994, is part of Yellow Pages group of information sources.

# Electra 'bombshell' on pay blew up 3i talks

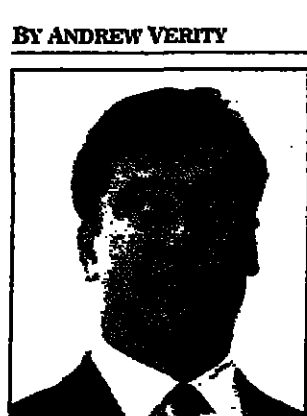
BY ANDREW VERITY

3i, the venture capital firm embroiled in a £1.24bn hostile bid for Electra Investment Trust, yesterday revealed that a secret pay deal for Electra's fund managers had blown apart initially friendly talks.

A spokesman for 3i confirmed that Michael Stoddart, chairman and founder of Electra, had initially agreed to an outline £1.2bn deal and entered talks with Brian Larcombe, chief executive of 3i.

After agreeing to enter more detailed talks, Mr Stoddart dropped what 3i described as a "remuneration bombshell", saying he had agreed to a 60 per cent boost in rewards for the trust's fund managers at Electra Fleming.

In one of the City's rarest reward packages, senior fund managers at Electra Fleming had already been given a 5 per cent participation in capital profits. The new pay package



Brian Larcombe: Chief executive of 3i

would have increased this to 8 per cent.

According to 3i, Mr Stoddart said on 15 January that he was minded to accept their offer. But he insisted that the agreement, which had not been disclosed to shareholders, must be honoured. Talks about the £200-a-

share offer collapsed after 3i balked at the pay deal.

Instead, six weeks later, Mr Stoddart offered to buy back 40 per cent of the shares at 785p and wind up the trust. The wind-up plan entails the purchase by the trust of a 50 per cent stake in Electra Fleming.

3i yesterday said it was revealing the issue because of irritation at continual leaks to newspapers "by the other side". Reports have also suggested a clash between Mr Stoddart and fund managers at Electra Fleming.

3i has continually resisted suggestions that its bid, which would create the biggest venture capital firm in the country, was hostile.

Electra executives were unavailable for comment yesterday. But Electra has stressed that Mr Stoddart would not take a unilateral decision on an approach.

# Liffe launches joint venture with London Clearing House

LIFFE, the futures exchange, yesterday announced details of a joint venture with the London Clearing House (LCH), a development that could see Liffe expand beyond its traditional market of financial derivatives, writes Lea Paterson.

Brian Williamson, Liffe chairman, said the new venture would allow the two organisations to explore business opportunities that did not naturally fall within their individual remit.

Liffe and the LCH - which provides clearing services to the International Petroleum Exchange and the London Metal Exchange as well as Liffe - plan to combine their expertise to offer new trading and clearing initiatives to the market's major players.

The venture could serve as a stepping stone for Liffe to enter other financial markets such as equities, Mr Williamson said. However, he acknowledged that any move away from the exchange's traditional base could require the co-operation of other City institutions.

The Liffe chairman stressed that the joint venture with the LCH was not a prelude to a full-scale merger, but was rather one of a number of partnerships that Liffe intends to pursue as a means of securing its longer term future. He said: "Liffe will remain a customer of the London Clearing House for day-to-day business, but as far as development is concerned it will have a partner."

asked to oversee the joint venture in its initial stages. Pen Kent, non-executive director of NatWest and former executive director of the Bank of England, is among the development board members, as are Sir Brian Pittman, Lloyds TSB chairman, and Alastair Clark, an executive director of the Bank of England.

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Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Admiral Holdings (P)	18 07m (11.4m)	12 55m (7.9m)	13.2p (14.1p)	6p (-)	28.05.98	28.04.99
Bancroft (14 Months)	3.91m (2.25m)	0.542m (0.324m)	0.73p (0.72p)	0.00p (0.00p)	14.05.99	06.04.99
Bancroft Corp (P)	218 835m (206 015m)	11.624m (13.037m)	10.91p (16.71p)	17.5p (-)	17.05.99	12.04.99
Blue Circle International (P)	2 021m (1 535m)	273.9m (546.3m)	22.8p (11.9p)	0.00p (-)	18.2p (14.5p)	08.06.99
British Regional Air Lines Co (P)	180.053m (153.213m)	5.165m (0.555m)	3p (4.9p)	0.00p (-)	24.05.99	08.04.99
Pratt & Whitney (P)	23.787m (27.727m)	-2.022m (0.740m)	-1.46p (2.5p)	0.7p (0p)	-	-
Crutcher (P)	2 107m (2.835m)	0.752m (0.406m)	8.3p (4.3p)	-	-	-
French Connection Group (P)	117.263m (53.697m)	10.401m (18.255m)	34p (27.5p)	4.25p (0.25p)	01.07.99	08.04.99
Gaskell (P)	50.83m (43.78m)	5.05m (5.65m)	17.9p (12.3p)	4.3p (3.1p)	02.07.99	07.06.99
Holmes Group (P)	28.4m (25m)	1.6m (1.5m)	11p (12.2p)	5.2p (5.2p)	14.05.99	05.04.99
Palmer (P)	66.25m (52.2m)	-0.188m (-0.182m)	-10.15p (-12.25p)	6p (6p)	28.05.99	26.04.99
Pearson's Group (P)	5.25m (5.13m)	-1.173m (0.269m)	1.85p (0.30p)	-	19.05.99	19.04.99
Publisher Properties (P)	10.40m (10.22m)	0.71m (1.47m)	22.40p (4.42p)	1.80p (1.70p)	21.05.99	12.04.99
Radford Trust (P)	14.05m (11.95m)	-0.635m (-0.167m)	-4.52p (-4.17p)	-	-	-
Silver Shield Farm (P)	0.17m (0.55m)	0.22m (11.83m)	5.20p (3.00p)	1.4p (1p)	01.07.99	10.05.99
Taylor Nelson Sofres (P)	342m (111.53m)	22.00m (20.00m)	22.30p (18.70p)	9.35p (8.50p)	28.05.99	26.04.99
T & S Stores (P)	648.4m (549.077m)	-	-	-	-	-

(P) = Profit (I) = Interest (N) = Nine Months



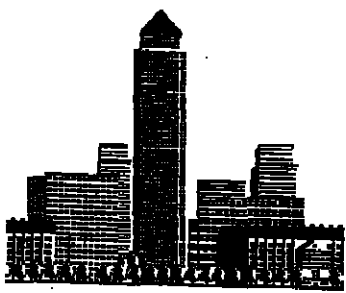
# Browne heads up Rockefeller Road

SIR JOHN Browne makes an unlikely John D Rockefeller. His one nod in the direction of ostentation is the occasional Havana that he likes to puff on. That apart, the diminutive chief executive of BP Amoco is hardly the archtypical oilman, being more at home at the opera than on board an oil rig. Nevertheless, Sir John is beginning to dominate the oil industry in much the same inexorable way as did his illustrious predecessor nearly a century ago.

Provided the board of Atlantic Richfield does not get cold feet, then by the end of this week Sir John will be in charge of the second biggest oil company in the world.

Moreover, he will have re-assembled three of the six businesses that the Rockefeller empire was forcibly broken into in 1911 after US anti-trust busters decided that Standard Oil had become too big for its boots and too dominant for the good of the American economy.

Last year's \$30bn BP-Amoco merger brought together Standard Oil of Ohio (today part of BP) and Standard Oil of Indiana (the forerunner of Amoco). Now Atlantic Richfield as Arco was known when it became a secret affiliate of Stan-



## OUTLOOK

dard Oil in 1874, is poised to join the Browne family as well.

The Arco deal is certainly opportunistic. Sir John is taking advantage of both the low oil price which has eaten away at oil company valuations and the soaring value of BP Amoco shares since the start of the year to pick up Arco on the cheap using his own paper.

But the line from Britannic House is that this latest merger is not about size for the sake of it. The fact that BP Amoco will keep the accident-prone Royal Dutch Shell and land in second spot behind Exxon-Mobil is mere coincidence. Even with Arco under its belt, BP Amoco will remain only three quar-

ters of the size of Exxon-Mobil. It could bridge that gap by acquiring, say, Chevron but even someone as single-minded and energetic as Sir John needs to take a rest sometime.

The logic of the BP-Amoco deal was hard to fault which was partly why it sailed through the regulators virtually unscathed. There is every prospect that the acquisition of Arco will enjoy a similarly smooth passage since there it involves virtually no concentration of market power. As an added bonus, there is only the remotest of chances of a rival intervening to spoil the party.

Any move on Arco by Chevron, Texaco or Shell would run smack bang into anti-trust problems on the US West Coast where they all have big petrol operations.

Arco, with its heavy dependence on Alaska, has looked vulnerable since last autumn's asset write-downs and a belated cost-cutting drive. BP Amoco, which has its own substantial Alaskan operations, looks best placed to capitalise. If the success of the Amoco merger is any guide, Sir John should be able to double the \$500m of cost savings that the Arco management is currently trying to wring from the business.

The only question mark is whether he is overstretching himself, given that BP is only just digesting Amoco. The answer is that, in reality, this deal ranks as little more than a bolt-on acquisition. Moreover it is one which might have moved out of range, along with the strengthening oil price, had Sir John hung around too long.

## Glaxo Wellcome

THE DECISIVE manner in which Sir John is building his oil empire contrasts starkly with the series of abortive merger attempts made by Glaxo Wellcome's Sir Richard Sykes. First he failed to tie the knot with SmithKline Beecham after falling out with Jan Leschley on the way up the aisle. Now his overtures to an American bride, Bristol Myers Squibb, have come to naught.

There again, perhaps the dalliance with the Americans was merely designed to lure SmithKline Beecham back to the negotiating table. As every lover knows, there is nothing like jealousy to spice up a flagging relationship. If nothing else, we may at last discover if Mr Leschley's new-found love for inde-

pendence is for real or just tactical talk while he hides his time until departing.

Sir Richard's end-game is known. He wants to build Glaxo into the world's largest drug company with 10 per cent of the market as quickly as possible. According to figures released yesterday by the consultancy IMS Health, Glaxo is number three in the world, within spitting distance of the leaders Novartis and Merck.

The UK company could reach the top through organic growth, but to get from the present 4 per cent market share to the magic 10, Sir Richard needs a deal. He, and the City, would like it to be with SKB, but if that doesn't materialise, Sir Richard is prepared to talk to others, as the Bristol Myers Squibb discussions show. Given Glaxo's strong hand, it is time for the other players and particularly SmithKline to end their bluffs and put their cards on the table.

## Energy tax

IT IS one of the depressing facts of life that pleasures are swift and pains lasting. As the glow of Gordon

Brown's penny off the income tax has faded from the headlines, the bad news in the Budget has come to the fore. First truckers complained about vehicle excise and fuel duties. Yesterday it was the turn of heavy energy users to criticise plans for a climate change levy, or energy tax.

Like the road hantlers, the energy-intensive industries make some pretty specious points. They complain that their energy costs are much higher than those of their competitors overseas, but omit the fact that other costs are lower. The balance of the tax burden between energy, labour and capital is different in the UK - it favours labour. But the overall corporate tax burden is pretty similar across Europe. Most comparisons put Britain ahead on cost grounds. So while the energy tax will certainly fall more heavily on energy-intensive users, that does not make it a bad policy per se, even if they are all in the struggling manufacturing sector.

However, there are two serious problems with the government's use of tax as an instrument of environmental policy. One is the fact that above-inflation increases in fuel duties have done nothing to damp-

en our love affair with the car. Emissions of greenhouse gases from transport have actually doubled in 25 years. The lesson from government tinkering with incentives to get vehicles off the roads is that tax charges probably have to be very high indeed to have a big impact on usage.

Secondly, there is a profound political silence on the need for consumers and households to pay more for their energy use if fiscal policy is to be an effective environmental instrument. Having made such political capital over its defeat of the Tories on VAT on domestic fuel, and having made such a virtue of falling gas and electricity bills for consumers, the Government is not going to reverse course now. But the fact is that unless every one of us pays more for energy, as a nation we will not economise on it.

Taxation is a blunt instrument, especially when it is wielded so selectively. A better policy than penalising the use of energy would be to incentivise industry to reduce its emissions. The Government, as yesterday's olive branch to the big energy users demonstrated, is moving in that direction.

## Enterprise captures Century with £79m strike

ENTERPRISE INNS, the pub owner, yesterday scooped up its rival Century Inns within hours of making an unsolicited £79.1m bid at the behest of institutional shareholders.

Century executives were suddenly faced with the certainty of being unelected, just hours after the announcement of the paper bid, which offers 0.3942 new shares in Enterprise for every share in Century.

The takeover will mean the departure of Century's executives and the closure of its head office, which employs fewer than 40 people. Enterprise said it would "generally keep all the people running their pubs".

Sources at Enterprise said the bid was a shareholder

BY ANDREW VERITY

initiative, led by nine institutions who wanted to see the creation of a pub-owning giant. "We were not interested in a long, drawn-out battle and we made it very clear we would proceed only with their support," the source said.

By this morning, when Century executives learnt of the bid, Enterprise already had undertakings or statements of intent in respect of 44.8 per cent of the company. By 3pm the offer, which values Century at 147p a share, went unconditional.

Yesterday, Century at first said it was considering the offer and promised a statement. By the afternoon it said

it would have to delay publishing a statement until today.

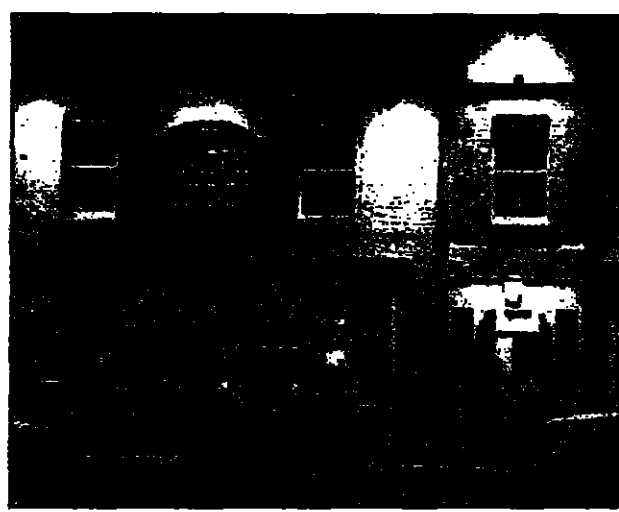
In January, institutional shareholders contacted Ted Tuppen, chief executive of Enterprise, after rumours emerged about a deal with Inn Business, another rival. Led by Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, M&G, Scottish Equitable and Norwich Union, the shareholders said they would prefer a takeover of Century. They added that there was more than 50 per cent support.

Enterprise and Century floated in 1995 as separate companies. Both held pubs formerly owned by Bass, but Enterprise ran all its pubs as tenancies rather than the managed houses favoured by Century.

Analysts said that Century, led by Alistair Arkey, had not been helped by its disappointing share-price performance. According to Enterprise, the total shareholder return on £100 invested in Enterprise on flotation was now £327, as against £120 for an investment in Century.

"Whether the board accepts is immaterial now. Unfortunately, companies can end up being run by institutional shareholders and in this case, they want a faster-growing company, which Enterprise is," said one.

Shares in Century closed yesterday at 141.5p, up from 115p. Shares in Enterprise closed down 7p at 373.5p.



Both pub groups floated in 1995, but Enterprise has enjoyed better market fortunes than Century

## Schroders signs for Liverpool FC

LIVERPOOL Football Club could float on the stock market or be sold to a media group after the Premier League club yesterday appointed Schroders, the leading investment bank, to advise it on its options in the fast-moving football industry, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The club, which is 66 per cent owned by the Moores family, had previously dismissed any talk that it might join the rush of football clubs that have listed their shares on the Stock Market.

However, David Moores, Liverpool's chairman, said: "The appointment of Schroders will help us to plan how best to max-

imise the potential of the club and to ensure it remains firmly established within Europe's elite."

Despite an illustrious history, Liverpool in recent years have underperformed compared to rivals such as Manchester United and Arsenal. In financial terms, however, the club is still one of the most profitable in the country, reporting an operating profit before transfers of £15m in 1997.

The move comes as football clubs await the outcome of both BSkyB's £525m bid for Manchester United, and the Office of Fair Trading's court case against the Premier League.

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MAIN MOVERS										High Low Stock Price Chg YTD P/E Vol										
RISES					FALLS															
PRICE <sup>1</sup>	CHG <sup>2</sup>	%CH	52WK		PRICE <sup>1</sup>	CHG <sup>2</sup>	%CH													
Aluminum	58.00	11.00	23.00		Vanadium Metal	215.00	-12.00	-5.63		50	Regal Ind	33.00	0.01	0.3	55.00					
Amstar	141.50	26.00	22.00		Transworld Inc	235.00	-16.00	-6.78		50	Reynolds	28.00	0.00	0.0	8.00					
Armco Corp	72.00	9.00	14.00		United Group	443.00	-31.00	-6.98		50	Rockwell Int	122.00	6.00	5.0	80.00					
Armco Corp	228.00	31.00	15.00		Union Carbide	225.00	-19.00	-8.44		50	Rockwell Int	30.00	0.00	0.0	24.00					
Aviation Corp	27.00	0.25	10.00		Spacenet	127.00	-5.00	-3.90		50	Rockwell Int	60.00	0.00	0.0	48.00					
Aviation Corp	27.00	15.00	9.00		British Amv	517.00	-31.00	-5.94		50	Rockwell Int	16.00	0.00	0.0	31.00					
Aviation Corp	188.00	12.00	8.75		Aviat Corp	26.00	-0.50	-1.90		50	Rockwell Int	17.00	0.00	0.0	15.00					
Aviation Corp	17.00	10.00	8.75		Bellcore	145.00	-9.00	-5.23		50	Rockwell Int	30.00	0.00	0.0	25.00					
Aviation Corp	120.00	0.00	7.62		Bellcore	116.00	-5.00	-4.26		50	Rockwell Int	43.00	0.00	0.0	31.00					
MARKET LEADERS										LIFE ASSURANCE										
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																				
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# Investors pile on to merger bandwagon

**TAKOVER MANIA** returned to boost Footsie. The blue-chip index jumped 113.7 points to 5,524.9 as investors piled on to the speculative bandwagon.

BP Amoco, Glaxo Wellcome and Reed International were the giants setting the pace. Among the second liners Safeway, the supermarket chain, and Storehouse, the BHS group, were singled out for bid attention.

The prospect of BP Amoco, Footsie's biggest company, getting even bigger by taking over Los Angeles-based Atlantic Richfield (Arco) for £16bn sent the shares gushing 40p to a new 1,077p peak.

With Arco in tow, BP would represent an even more daunting challenge to fund managers than it does at the moment. After the Amoco merger it accounted for approaching 9 per cent of Footsie. If Arco is added in its involvement will be about 11 per cent. With many fund managers yet to adjust fully for

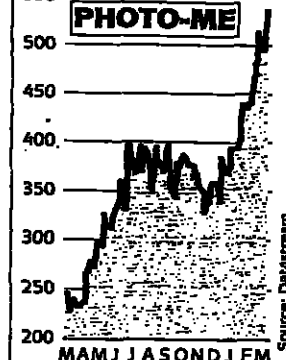
## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

### SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



**BEECHCROFT** held at 2.25p, a year's high, after reporting 14-month profits of £542,000, a 67 per cent increase on the previous 12 months. It builds upmarket retirement homes with a starting price of £175,000.

Profits this year could hit £850,000, helped by developments at Henley-on-Thames and at Lechlade, also on the river. The dividend is 0.06p against 0.05p. The shares have been up to 4p.

the Amoco merger they will be disturbingly underweight in the all-powerful oil group.

Other oil shares responded to the BP initiative, with Shell, on hopes it could be stirred into merger action, rising by 12.25p to 423.25p. The crude oil price at a five-month high Enterprise Oil, still talking merger with Lascro, fared 8p to 353p. Lascro gained 7.5p to 135.5p.

Glaxo was on a high, adding 83p to 1,979p. It has again shown its desire to grow by holding merger talks with the US group, Bristol Myers

Squibb. The negotiations did not get very far, but they underlined market suspicion that it will not be long before Glaxo comes a drug rival. Smith-Kline Beecham, still regarded as a merger possibility, put on 32.5p to 855.5p.

Publisher Reed International gained 21p to 540.5p following reports that Wolters Kluwer was talking the Anglo-Dutch group with a possible £15bn offer.

With so many heavyweights in demand, Footsie moved steadily ahead for much of the day. A strong New York was another bullish influence, helping overcome worries about the Balkan crisis. More evidence that interest rates should be cut further and the usual jockeying ahead of the end of the trading quarter and tax year contributed to the Easter parade.

Supporting shares also edged into positive territory, but most of the attention was directed at Footsie.

Still, Safeway jumped 15.75p to 263.75p. Some suggested that it was merely over-

sold, but the surge in trading indicated hopes of corporate action. Asda is known to have looked and walked away, and it is possible that the group's charms could attract an overseas predator, such as Wal-Mart or Royal Ahold.

The Safeway move could, in part, have been inspired by Crédit Lyonnais' buy advice. The investment house said the shares had fallen to "inducement levels".

Storehouse also drew strength from the oversold argument, but the 11p gain to 136.5p was also due to talk of a US strike. The retailer denied it had received a bid approach.

Imperial Chemical Industries topped the Footsie leader board on hopes its disposal programme was at last coming together and sales worth £2bn were near. ICI, on expectations of a Cellnet deal, was back above 1,000p at 1,014p, and talk of bank action pushed Lloyds TSB 43.5p higher to 945p.

P&O, after last week's progress, ran out of steam, slipping 8p to 913.5p, and Ladbroke lost ground after BT. Alex Brown took the shares off its buy list; they gave up 7.5p to 288.75p. Billiton, the resources group, eased 6p to 145p after analysts returned from South America, and Railtrack reversed 21p to 1,455p on funding worries. Great Universal Stores fell 28p to 69p; it was believed that Cazenove cut its profit forecast from 251.8m to 250.2m. Last year GUS achieved 253.7m.

Among the second liners London International, the condom maker, gained 11p to 158.5p after it became apparent that takeover talks were still going on. Glass maker Pilkington rose 5p to 75p on persistent bid talk.

Century Inns frothed up 26.5p to 141.5p as Enterprise Inns duly rolled out its 150p-a-share bid and, illustrating shareholder power, quickly won control. Inn Business, another in Enterprise's sights, fell 5p to 66.5p. Pubs 'n' Bars, in reverse takeover talks, rose 5.5p to 43p.

Cleveland Trust, a property group, added 7.5p to 115p as the Ashtenne property

group emerged as the most likely bidder.

Sema, the computer group, shaded to 738.5p on its return to Footsie following the removal of LucasVarity, and Photo-Me International snapped 30p higher to 535p on its mid cap debut. Ultraframe, also a mid cap recruit, firmed to 402.5p.

French Connection rose 105p to 485p following results, and Arlen, the electrical group, scored the day's best gain, 34.5p to 26.25p, as asset sales and a corporate revamp edged nearer.

Signet, the jeweller, twined 1.5p up to 47.75p after it became known that it faced resolutions from 6 per cent of shareholders to sell its US operations or at least float a 20 per cent interest in its transatlantic jewellery chain.

Sandtrac, the hi-fi group, continued to benefit from last week's upbeat trading statement, hitting a 12-month peak with a 13p gain to 81.5p. BGR,

**COUNTRYWIDE** Assured, the estate agent, rose 5p to 140.5p; earlier this month the group reported profits down from £54.8m to £42.5m, but said trading in its first two months had been "very encouraging".

With the housing market improving the former Hamro Countrywide, capitalised at near £500m, could be on a roll and there is talk that it could attract a predator. The shares were 24p three years ago.

the restaurant group, served up a 26.5p gain to 180p following encouraging trading comments. Clubhaus, the golf group expected to tee up profits 90 per cent higher at £8.7m today, advanced 8p to 64.5p.

NMT, the disposable syringe maker, gained another 9.5p to 136.5p. The shares have surged upwards from 70p last week after the company announced its plans to raise £15.3m.

**SEAG VOLUME: 982.2m**  
**SEAG TRADES: 90,957**  
**GILTS INDEX: 113.41 +1.00**

# Blue Circle ready for £400m buying spree

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

**BLUE CIRCLE**, the UK's largest cement maker, is set to go on a £400m acquisition spree to boost its presence in emerging markets.

The chief executive, Keith Orrell-Jones, said yesterday that a slump in the group's profits in the crisis-ridden Asian and Latin American economies would not halt Blue Circle's expansion in the developing world. He hinted the group would spend a large part of its war chest in South America, where it owns a large Chilean cement maker. The company was also looking at bolt-on acquisitions in Asia, where it spent more than £700m on acquisitions last year.

Mr Orrell-Jones said Blue Circle would consider investing in developed markets, particularly the US where demand for cement is set to boom thanks to multi-billion dollar infrastructure spending. However, he warned that high valuations of US companies made it difficult to buy in America.

The chief executive said that competition issues ruled out acquisitions in the UK, where Blue Circle controls over 40 per cent of the market.

News of the expansion drive came as the company quashed speculation that it would sell its UK heating business, which has long been seen as non-core. Mr Orrell-Jones did not

## BLUE CIRCLE: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £2.51bn, share price 363.5p (-4.5p)

**Five-year record 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998**

Turnover (£bn) 1.78 1.78 1.81 2.32 2.30

Pre-tax profits (£m) 184.4 263.8 297.6 246.3 273.8

Earnings per share (p) 12.7 18.4 23.5 17.0 22.8

Dividends per share (p) 11.75 12.5 13.25 14.5 15.2

### Turnover by region

Europe 1,200

Asia 107

Africa 99

North America 711

South America 159

### Share price

pence

500

450

400

350

300

250

200

1994 95 96 97 98 1999

Source: Datastream

rule out a sale in the future, but said he was not in talks with potential buyers.

Some analysts took a dim view of Blue Circle's expansion plans. "They need to achieve a balance in their investment. I would be loath to see another £400m going to emerging markets," said Kevin Cammack at Merrill Lynch.

The City's fears were backed by the 1998 results, out yesterday. Profits before tax and exceptional fell by 7 per cent to

£317.6m on turnover marginally down to £2.3bn. The figures halted the stock's good run, sending the shares down 4.5p to 363.25p.

The figures were driven by a collapse in profits in Malaysia, the Philippines and Chile. In the Asian countries, economic turmoil caused a 72.4 per cent slump in profits to £3.8m.

The Far East's woes prompted a 32 per cent fall in profits at the Chilean operations, heavily reliant on exports to Asia.

# British Regional demand takes off

SHARES IN British Regional Air Lines, the small European carrier, jumped by 14 per cent yesterday when the company reported surging demand for flights on its 50-seat jets.

With profits up by more than one-third, the shares began to recover the status they enjoyed before the collapse of small cap stocks in September last year, rising by 10p to 80p.

The full-year results are the first since British Regional came to market in June last year, opening at around 100p a share. Yesterday the board declared its first dividend of 0.88p.

Three months after listing, the group was rocked by the economic gloom caused by the rouble crisis, which hit transport stocks particularly hard.

Airlines also suffered under the impact of discount competition from EasyJet and Go!, the carrier owned by British Airways. Amid warnings of a softening travel market, the shares took two months to plummet from 100p to below 30p.

Terry Liddiard, the chief executive of British Regional, responded by stepping up a successful experiment with 50-seat jet aircraft.

This class of jets became profitable to fly only last year and have proved valuable to small airlines that could operate less popular routes without the strain of having to fill 100 seats per flight. The jets also hold much greater passenger appeal than turboprop aircraft.

BY ANDREW VERTY

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The airline is also moving into new routes, including some from Sheffield, the UK's fifth-

## BRITISH REGIONAL AIRWAYS

share price, pence

110

100

90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

M J J A S O N D J F M

Source: Datastream

largest City. Sheffield only recently gained its own airport.

Amid last year's economic travails, few investors drew a sharp enough distinction between discount carriers such as EasyJet and regional airlines such as British Regional.

Analysts point out that cut-throat fare cutting has little effect on British Regional because it is usually the sole carrier on its typical routes. Where it is not, it has shown in the past that it is perfectly capable of fighting off competition.

Forecasts for 1999 are already being upgraded from the 58m profit that analysts had expected. At 80p, the shares are on a forward price/earnings ratio of around eight - a hefty discount to the market - and quality as a long-term buy.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	1.0000				
Australia	2.5544	2.5533	2.5533	2.5533	2.5533
Austria	20.732	20.721	20.708	20.695	20.682
Belgium	60.777	60.658	60.434	60.210	60.000
Canada	2.4438	2.4428	2.4418	2.4408	2.4398
Denmark	11.203	11.184	11.149	11.114	11.079
Euro	1.3066				
Finland	8.9404	8.9074	8.8744	8.8414	8.8084
France	6.5595	6.5585	6.5575	6.5565	6.5555
Germany	2.9467	2.9457	2.9447	2.9437	2.9427
Greece	481.48	481.41	481.34	481.27	481.20
Hong Kong	12.519	12.512	12.505	12.498	12.491
Ireland	1.1866	1.1861	1.1856	1.1851	1.1846
Italy	201.72	201.65	201.58	201.51	201.44
Japan	193.65	193.58	193.51	193.44	193.37
Malaysia	6.1353	6.1343	6.1333	6.1323	6.1313
Netherlands	3.2137	3.2127	3.2117	3.2107	3.2097
New Zealand	3.2081	3.2071	3.2061	3.2051	3.2041
Norway	12.578	12.571	12.564	12.557	12.550
Portugal	302.05	301.98	301.91	301.84	301.77
Saudi Arabia	6.0664	6.0654	6.0644	6.0634	6.0624
Singapore	2.7589	2.7579	2.7569	2.7559	2.7549
South Africa	10.0487	10.0477	10.0467	10.0457	10.0447
Spain	250.68	250.61	250.54	250.47	250.40
Sweden	13.455	13.448	13.441	13.434	13.427
Switzerland	2.4011	2.3996	2.3981	2.3966	2.3951
US	1.6156				

## OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Argentina	1.6075	0.9950	0.9950	0.9950	0.9950
Brazil	2.8595	1.7700	1.7700	1.7700	1.7700
China	13.376	8.2797	8.2797	8.2797	8.2797
Czech Rep	58.110	35.989	35.989	35.989	35.989
Egypt	5.4719	3.3870	3.3870	3.3870	3.3870
Ghana	386.11	239.00	239.00	239.00	239.00
Hungary	383.87	237.61	237.61	237.61	237.61
India	68.180	43.180	43.180	43.180	43.180
Indonesia	142.452	88.200	88.200	88.200	88.200
Kuwait	0.4943	0.3060	0.3060	0.3060	0.3060
Nigeria	148.02	91.625	91.625	91.625	91.625

## INTEREST RATES

UK	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
Base	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
Overnight	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
1 month	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
3 months	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
6 months	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
1 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
2 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
3 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
4 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
5 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
10 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
15 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
20 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
25 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
30 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
35 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
40 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
45 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
50 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
55 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
60 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
65 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
70 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
75 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
80 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
85 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
90 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
95 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%
100 year	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo (Ave)	2.90%

## BOND YIELDS

	3m	6m	1y	2y	3y	5y	10y	15y	20y
Treasury Bills			5.11	5.01	4.94	4.84			
T-BOR		5.50	5.50	5.44	5.34	5.34	5.25	5.25	5.25
Corporate Depos	5.25	5.50	5.38	5.50	5.40	5.19	5.29	5.08	5.18
Municipal Depos	5.63	5.75	5.41	5.47	5.31	5.41	5.19	5.25	5.09
Regulate Bank Bids					5.19	5.09	5.06	4.96	4.92
Floating CDs				3.36	5.30	5.21	5.13	5.12	5.04
Eurodollar CDs			4.81	4.88				4.95	
Euro Libor	3.01	3.01	3.00	3.00	2.98	2.98	2.96	2.96	2.98

www.bloomberg.com/uk

Source: Bloomberg



Fund	Net Assets	Assets	Liabilities	Equity	Income	Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets	Assets	Liabilities	Equity	Income	Expenses	Net Income
First Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Second Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Third Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fourth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fifth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventh Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eighth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ninth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tenth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eleventh Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twelfth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirteenth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fourteenth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fifteenth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixteenth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventeenth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eighteenth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nineteenth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twentieth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-first Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-second Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-third Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-fourth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-fifth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-sixth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-seventh Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-eighth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twenty-ninth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirtieth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirty-first Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirty-second Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirty-third Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirty-fourth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirty-fifth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirty-sixth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirty-seventh Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thirty-eighth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Fortieth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-first Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-second Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-third Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-fourth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-fifth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-sixth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-seventh Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-eighth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forty-ninth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fiftieth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fifty-first Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fifty-second Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fifty-third Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fifty-fourth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Fifty-sixth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Fifty-ninth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixtieth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixty-first Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixty-second Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixty-third Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Sixty-seventh Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixty-eighth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Seventieth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-first Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-second Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-third Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-fourth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-fifth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-sixth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-seventh Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-eighth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seventy-ninth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eightieth Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eighty-first Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.					

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# SPORT

European Championship: Wales emerge from the doldrums to rediscover that winning feeling

## Speed is driven by patriotic fervour

GUY HODGSON

GARY SPEED was doing his PR bit, swinging a golf club for the benefit of photographers and chucking at the incongruity of doing it at Prescoed Prison, Usk, where Wales train. "Is that it, everyone happy?" he asked. Not as content as you appear to be could have been the reply.

He was the relaxed ambassador a captain of his country ought to be, which is noteworthy on several counts, not least of which is that he could have been a focal point for glowering discontent within the Welsh squad instead of becoming its cement. The smiles at Prescoed could easily have been converted to snarls.

How close he came to causing an enduring rift between himself and the Wales manager Bobby Gould only they know - and neither is too forthcoming - but a flash point occurred that could have permanently fractured their relationship.

Speed, a fierce patriot, was so disgusted by Wales' lamentable display when they lost 4-0 to Tunisia last June he let rip in the dressing room. "All the frustrations boiled up within Gary and he could hold them no longer," an unnamed team-mate was quoted afterwards and as Gould is no slowcoach when it comes to expressing opinions either you can imagine the ferocity of the exchange.

"The game shouldn't have happened, it was too much in terms of the season and energy levels," Graham Williams, Gould's assistant, said. "The Tunisians messed us around something terrible, putting the kick-off time back and putting it forward again. They didn't even give us balls to train with."

"Everything was getting to people, someone had to say something and Gary did. He was like a volcano, he was disappointed about the result and he just exploded. It was a game too far."

Some managers might have clumsily flexed their selectorial muscles. Players have been known to petulantly turn their backs on international football, but thankfully for Wales neither acted before they put their restraint and sense in gear. The air was cleared by the storm, Gould retained Speed as his captain and a bond appears to have been forged.

"We knew a lot of things had to change," Williams continued, reflecting on the new mood. "Bobby knew it too and is man enough to do it. He now has me to bounce ideas off and we try to get Gary, Mark Hughes and the other players involved in conversations and team talks. We don't just say: 'Bobby and I are going to do this or that'. We've become more of a team."

In terms of results, surprisingly so. The 2-0 defeat by Italy at Anfield was a scoreline that did not do justice to Wales and they have beaten Denmark away and Belarus at home to reach second place in Group One. A good result against Switzerland in Zurich tomorrow will mean that hopes will be rising that qualification for the European Championship finals via second place and the play-offs is feasible.

The atmosphere as the Welsh

players assembled last week could not be much more of a contrast to the rancour and unhappiness of Tunisia. "The spirit now is like it was in the best times," Speed said. "It's important because we don't see each other that often, six months since the last time, but when we met again it was if we'd all been together yesterday. Everyone gets on and we take that on to the pitch."

Speed will win his 50th cap tomorrow - collecting them at the rate of two to one compared to Ryan Giggs since the Manchester United winger made his international debut in 1992 - and at 29 is the most consistently available influence in Wales' midfield. He is also, with the senior men Mark Hughes and Dean Saunders, best placed to weigh Wales' recent history.

"We've had some very good times and some very bad ones," he said. "The high point was when we were beating Germany, Brazil and Belgium at home without it being strange. It wasn't expected but it wasn't an upset either. That's the aim. To get back to Cardiff Arms Park and make it the fortress it once was."

As for low, he did not hesitate to nominate November 1993 when a win over Romania in Cardiff would have gained Wales a place in the following summer's World Cup. Instead Paul Bodin hit the bar with a penalty and Wales missed out on their first major finals since 1958. "It was an absolute sickener," Speed said, "and worse now than it was at the time because you look back and think we were so close."

"Things needed to change and maybe they didn't change as quickly as they should have done. We needed a fresh start and maybe, if the bad times hadn't happened, we'd still be stale and struggling. People have made a conscious effort to get out of the rut."

No one more so than Speed. Against Italy, in his first game after his Tunisian outburst, he comfortably eclipsed Demetrio Albertini and Eusebio Di Francesco and was the dominant midfield force on a pitch purportedly littered with them. "He was outstanding, the best game I've seen him play for Wales," Williams said. "His leadership was immense and it was a pity he was on the losing side because he outshone a lot of the Italians. In the dressing room afterwards he was so upset about the result."

"He's very, very Welsh. He plays Welsh music in his car all the time and he desperately wants his country to do well."

Speed, whose form has been outstanding for his club, Newcastle, since he moved inside from the left wing and into the centre of the seemingly doubting Rund Gullit's plans, missed the game against Belarus because of suspension, a win



Gary Speed: 'The spirit now is like it was in the best times. Everyone gets on and we take that on to the pitch'

Empics

that was secured also without Giggs and John Hartson. That, he believes, is relevant. "We've struggled at times in the past because we haven't got strength in depth. If Giggs or Sparky Hughes were missing we'd struggle, so to get the results we did was helpful for our confidence."

As for the Swiss game, he added: "We're confident of getting a result

but if we draw or win out there it'll be a great result only if we win at home. It's no point doing well on Wednesday if we blow it back in Wales."

If that suggests something more than the usual "taking each game as it comes", then it has also been noticed within the Welsh FA. "He talks sense and is very knowledgeable about his football,"

Williams said. "When he speaks you listen because even as a coach I can learn from him."

"When we played Belarus he was on the bench and it was interesting to watch him. He was analysing the match, he was analysing Bobby and myself and how we work and thinking about how things can improve."

"He'll be a coach in the future, I'm

sure of that. He's still young, of course, but when Bobby and I leave he and Mark Hughes will make a very good partnership. I'm sure he could be a future Wales manager."

For now, Speed is happy with his current role. "It's the greatest honour in the game to be captain of your country," he said, "and it's not one I take lightly at all." Bobby Gould will gladly vouch for that.

## Graveney wants contracts resolved

CRICKET

BY MYLES HODGSON  
in Lahore

DAVID GRAVENEY yesterday called for a quick resolution to England's World Cup contracts issue before it threatens to undermine the crucial final stages of the side's preparations for this summer's tournament.

Graveney, the chairman of selectors, was speaking as he arrived with England's 15-man squad in Lahore, where the team will acclimatise before contesting the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah against India and Pakistan next week, their final competitive fixtures before the World Cup.

With six weeks until the World Cup begins, the England and Wales Cricket Board has still to give contract details to the 15 selected players despite lengthy negotiations between the England captain, Alec Stewart, and the international team director, Simon Pack.

"I'm keen that everything is resolved and everyone is happy with it and that those negotiations do not get in the way of playing the game," Graveney explained.

The players are believed to be asking for around £50,000 a man, based on incentives for reaching each stage and appearance money, if they become the first host country to win the World Cup. But the ECB's offer is likely to fall well short of that figure because the Board is still to secure four of its anticipated eight sponsors for the tournament.

"My own personal view, for what it is worth, is that selection for the World Cup should be recognised," Graveney said. "The players should receive some reward for being selected in the squad and then identify tiers which they reach in the tournament and that should be reflected financially."

Because of the logistics involved in sending the contracts out to the squad, the players are unlikely to sign until they return but Graveney is acting as an intermediary between Stewart and Pack in the meantime, in the hope that an agreement can be reached.

"What I would like to do is get everybody to agree the terms before the Sharjah tournament," Graveney added. "Lahore has many plus-points, and the main one is the amount of time the team spends together here."

"It's good for team spirit and the week we spent here before we played in Sharjah last time I thought was instrumental in creating the spirit we took into that tournament."

"There is no doubt the World Cup is the pinnacle as a one-day competition and that has to be kept in mind when it comes to the contracts."

### TOMORROW



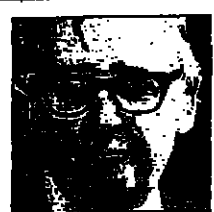
'Sport needs an effective lobby. If I have to do a deal with the devil I will get an effective lobby.'

Sports Minister Tony Banks talks to Brian Viner

## Celtic selectors are abusing the Granny factor

I READ in the papers that a learned professor claims the ancient Celts are a myth. Whether this is so or not, what has come to be called the Celtic nations will be entering the World Cup with some pretty mythical rugby teams if they are meant to be truly representing their respective countries. Indeed, the competition deserves to go down as the Convenient Granny Cup.

Scotland will almost certainly have in their squad Glenn Metcalfe, Shaun Longstaff, Gordon Simpson, Martin Leslie and his brother John, the outstanding centre thus far in the Five Nations. They all originate from New Zealand. Another near-certainty is the prop Matthew Proudfoot. He is from South Africa. Nor should we forget the Scottish



ALAN WATKINS

raids across the border. David Hilton is a Bristol butcher who plays for Bath. Paul Burnell is from Reading. Andy Reed was born at St Austell in Cornwall, which is about as far from Scotland as it is possible to go on the

mainland. And Budge Pountney was born in the Channel Islands and comes from Hampshire.

Ireland have a similar player in Kevin Maggs, a Bristolian who opted for a green jersey - as Kyran Bracken considered going for at one stage of his career - while Malcolm O'Kelly was born in Chelmsford.

The Irish are, like the Scots, a migratory people. Nonetheless I have doubts about the inclusion in the squad of Ross Nesdale and Andy Ward, from New Zealand, and Dion O'Cuinnagain, from South Africa.

My native land are - always have been - relatively modest cross-border plunderers. Shane Howarth plays for Sale in the English Premiership and was previously capped by New Zealand. The new addition

to the Welsh team who bears the fine old Valley name of Brett Slinkinson is uncapped by New Zealand but is as much a product of that country as Anchor butter.

Peter Rodgers, the much-needed loose-head prop, had a father from Trimsaran, near Llanelli; was born in Maidstone, learnt his rugby in South Africa; and plays for London Irish, even though he has not played much this season on account of injury.

England look like going into the competition with an all-English squad. There was a flutter, some weeks ago, about whether Joel Stransky would be added. First Clive Woodward, the England coach, said he would be sad if he had to enter the competition with any-

one but a true-born Englishman at outside half, which appeared to rule out Strausky. Then he said he might consider the former South Africa outside half, who was playing for Leicester until his injury.

That injury, combined with his failure to meet the three-year residential qualification by a matter of weeks, seems to mean that Stransky will not be wearing a white jersey. Despite the emergence of Jonny Wilkinson and the on-and-off rehabilitation of Mike Catt, he would fill what is still a gap. It is interesting that Woodward is advancing the claims of Nick Burrows, who learnt his rugby in South Africa and plays for London Irish. He may be needed yet should anything untoward happen to Jeremy Guscott.

On the whole, England are less prone to go on cross-border raids than their neighbours, or to ransack the southern hemisphere for its hidden treasures. It was not always so. In the decade after the war, Oxford University were one of the most formidable teams in the land, on a par with Cardiff and Coventry.

The England selectors regularly chose players from the southern hemisphere for no other reason than that they were Rhodes Scholars at Oxford. Come to that, I am not sure they were all at the university in that capacity. Clive van Ryneveld and Murray Hofmeyr from South Africa, Ian Botting from New Zealand, Basil Travers from Australia. Their selection was, when you come to think about it, a thorough

disgrace. And yet, to the best of my recollection, no protest was made at the time.

We are seeing, every evening on our television screens, the malign consequences of an obsession with nationality. Even so, I feel rugby union has become a little too free-and-easy and its ways. I should certainly decree that, once a player had been capped by one country, he could not go on to represent another.

This would disqualify Howarth from representing Wales. It would also prevent the New Zealand selectors from treating Western Samoa as the junior academy of their national side, with players fitting between the islands as if they were ancient Celtic saints hopping across the Irish Sea.



Two Legends cars take to the track as the wheel-to-wheel racing makes its British debut - 'It's a throwback to the good old days,' says Phil Cooper *Robert Hallam*

**A new form of motor racing, Legends cars, is catching on in Britain after its US successes. By Andrew Collomosse**

versions of the classic "Bugsy Malone" American couples and sedans of the 1930s, powered by a 1200cc Yamaha engine that produces speeds of up to 125mph.

And the venues for the 16-race circuit season feature some of Britain's most famous motor racing homes. Brands Hatch, Donington, Oulton Park, Mallory Park and Knockhill are on the 1999 calendar and there is also a 21-race series on Indianapolis-style oval tracks.

"I was with Island Records from the start back in 1964 and then I spent 24 years travelling the world," says Cooper. "So when I left it behind, I needed something that would give me the same buzz. This is it."

"I've always been a motor racing fan and on one of my trips to the States I took the chance to watch Legends cars

in action. I was hooked. The racing is exciting, spectacular and above all tremendous fun for everyone involved.

"It's a throwback to what I call the good old days when motor racing had a smile on its face and people were happy to help one another. If someone breaks down in Legends, the other teams don't look the other way; they rally round and help. Isn't that what sport is supposed to be all about? In a way, I suppose, staging a race is a bit like cutting a disc or doing a concert. The driver is the artist, someone who wants a share of the limelight, enjoys signing autographs and likes to be up there on centre stage.

"The mechanics are the musicians, the circuit is the venue and the fans have come along for a good time because

that's what the entertainment business is supposed to be about. I'm there to pull all the strings together."

Yet, while the bodywork of the lookalike Buicks, Dodges, Chevys and Fords comes straight out of the Prohibition era, there is nothing too prohibitive about the economics.

For Cooper and co-director Fraser Kennedy believe they have come up with a package that gives aspirant racing drivers a chance to find a way into the sport without breaking the bank manager's heart.

All the Legends cars, five-eighths replicas of the real thing, start at \$2,995 (£6,200) and have identical specifications, putting a premium on driving ability and set-up rather than the size of the bankroll providing on-asterisks.

And Cooper insists that to compete in the six-race circuit season will cost a maximum of \$7,500, including entry fees, transport, accommodation and the inevitable breakages.

"What other form of motor sport gives you a chance to race at places like Brands and Donington for that kind of money?" asks Cooper, who has 21 cars on the grid for the circuit series, which started at Mallory Park last weekend, and 12 for the ovals.

This year's field includes, among others, a female City investment banker, identical twin landscape gardeners, a plumber and a family trio of father, son and nephew, confirmation of Legends' catholic appeal.

Each round of the championship consists of three races. Grid places for the first heat are drawn out of a hat and the grid is reversed for the second heat.

In the final the fastest cars

from the two heats start from the back of the grid. Get the picture? Close racing and overtaking is guaranteed. Races, which will support this season's Eurocar Championship events, last no longer than about 10 minutes.

"After seeing the cars in action at the Charlotte circuit in North Carolina I knew straight away how popular Legends could be over in Britain with both the drivers and the fans," says Cooper.

"It was a struggle for the first couple of years because we needed a few pioneers and everybody knows that pioneers have sometimes ended up with arrows in their backsides.

"Understandably, people had to be convinced that they weren't wasting their money that we were here to stay. By increasing the size of the grid from six to more than 20 in three seasons, we've demonstrated that we are."

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# Double exposure for Hills

IT WOULD be interesting to know what the marketing department of William Hill estimated to be the likely downside of the firm's decision to give away £1.5m in free bets last month. Not much, you suspect, since the bet in question - 90-90 of them, distributed to disappointed applicants for shares in Hills' abortive flotation - could be placed only as £20 win doubles on the Lincoln and the Grand National. But after the victory of Right Wing in Saturday's opening leg, the people who dreamed it up might yet find that they have come up with the most expensive publicity wheeze since Hoover decided to offer free flights.

So far, the figures are these. When the flotation was scrapped a few weeks ago,

BY GREG WOOD

90,000 applicants were left without the shares they had registered to buy. All received the free £20 bet on the Spring Double, and about 10,000 managed to find the Lincoln winner, either by specifying Right Wing by name, or by asking for the bet to ride on "the favourite". Since bets will only be settled at starting price, and Right Wing's SP was 9-2, these lucky punters now have a free £10 bet running on to the National, which is a grand total of about £1.1m.

Again, many have specified the unnamed favourite for the second leg of the bet. With less than two weeks to go to the race, this seems likely to be Double Thriller, whose name suddenly begins to seem

strangely appropriate. Hills' early estimate is that a quarter of all the running on money will attach itself to Paul Nicholls's chaser, who finished fourth in the Gold Cup at Cheltenham. If he is successful, at odds of, say, 4-1, they will stand to pay out around £1.5m.

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Superficial (Newcastle 3.20)  
NB: Count Karmanski (Newcastle 3.55)

Not surprisingly, this potential liability has rather skewed William Hill's ante-post betting and they now go 7-2 against Double Thriller when 5-1 is available elsewhere. This ensures that they will not add to their potential losses in the

run-up to the race on Saturday week, which is reasonable enough. It is disappointing, though, to find that there is little value further down their list to make up for the short price about the favourite. They are top-priced about just one of the first nine horses in the betting, while Stanley, by contrast, manage to offer the clear or joint-best odds about six of the main entries.

Still, the knowledge of Hills' big liability should make for some interesting trading in the ring on National day. The on-course bookies have no such worries, and are more than bright enough to work out that every extra half-point on Double Thriller's starting price will stand to cost Hills about £125,000. The firm will need to feed money to the course to

keep the favourite's price down, just as they did at Doncaster on Saturday, when Hills sent £16,000 into the ring to shorten on Right Wing, and another £10,000 to do the same to Captain Scott, the runner-up. At such a short price about a horse with no National experience, in a field of 30 or more runners, the ring will accommodate them all day.

At Hills' head office, though, panic has yet to set in. "If you're going to have big liabilities, this is the race to have big liabilities in," Graham Sharpe, the firm's spokesman, said yesterday. "You can make a book around the situation, and it's not as if we're not taking anything for anything else. You don't put £1.5m of free bets into the market without being aware that you stand to acquire a sub-

stantial liability if a fancied horse wins the first leg, but it's an opportunity to introduce a large number of novice punters to our business, and even the 80,000 that backed losers on Saturday had a lot of fun."

Of course, even if Double Thriller does win the National and Hills pay out £1m or so, they will receive a fair slice back from their hedging bets, while the publicity for the firm in the run-up to the biggest betting race of the year is also priceless.

They also have a friend in a high place, the Patron Saint of Bookmakers, who always seems to sort out a means of salvation for his flock when they are facing a difficult situation. Then again, this time he may decide that if a bookmaker's firm hands out 90,000 free bets, that's their problem.

## Stravinsky flop lets in Mujahid

ANTE-POST UPDATE

BY IAN DAVIES

MUJAHID, THE winner of the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket last autumn, has shortened to become the top-priced 5-1 favourite for the 2,000 Guineas with William Hill as a result of Stravinsky's defeat at the Curragh on Sunday.

Stravinsky finished behind Mujahid in the Dewhurst last year, but had nevertheless shortened up to become clear favourite for the 2,000 Guineas over the winter. However, the 2-5 favourite proved a big disappointment in the Loughbrown Race over seven furlongs on Sunday, going down by a head to the Kevin Prendergast-trained Taras.

Afterwards Aidan O'Brien, Stravinsky's trainer, suggested the colt may not be his principal 2,000 Guineas hope. O'Brien could also call upon Black Rock Desert, Orpen or Lavary, although the last-named is thought less forward than his stable companions at present. O'Brien had better fortune at

the Curragh with Saffron Walden, who enhanced his Classic claims with a length victory over Carhu Gold in the Home Of The Classics Maiden.

Interest in the Oaks is limited and most bookmakers are finding it hard to form a market. However, William Hill and Stanley both make Sunspangled, winner of the Fillies' Mile at Ascot, their favourite.

Belmont King was yesterday cut to 16-1 from 26-1 for the Grand National by Coral.

**DAVE STAKES** (Epsom, Friday, 4 June): William Hill: 5-1 Sunspangled, 10-1 Carhu Gold, 12-1 Saffron Walden, 14-1 Carhu Gold, 16-1 Carhu Gold, 18-1 Carhu Gold, 20-1 Carhu Gold, 22-1 Carhu Gold, 24-1 Carhu Gold, 26-1 Carhu Gold, 28-1 Carhu Gold, 30-1 Carhu Gold, 32-1 Carhu Gold, 34-1 Carhu Gold, 36-1 Carhu Gold, 38-1 Carhu Gold, 40-1 Carhu Gold, 42-1 Carhu Gold, 44-1 Carhu Gold, 46-1 Carhu Gold, 48-1 Carhu Gold, 50-1 Carhu Gold, 52-1 Carhu Gold, 54-1 Carhu Gold, 56-1 Carhu Gold, 58-1 Carhu Gold, 60-1 Carhu Gold, 62-1 Carhu Gold, 64-1 Carhu Gold, 66-1 Carhu Gold, 68-1 Carhu Gold, 70-1 Carhu Gold, 72-1 Carhu Gold, 74-1 Carhu Gold, 76-1 Carhu Gold, 78-1 Carhu Gold, 80-1 Carhu Gold, 82-1 Carhu Gold, 84-1 Carhu Gold, 86-1 Carhu Gold, 88-1 Carhu Gold, 90-1 Carhu Gold, 92-1 Carhu Gold, 94-1 Carhu Gold, 96-1 Carhu Gold, 98-1 Carhu Gold, 100-1 Carhu Gold, 102-1 Carhu Gold, 104-1 Carhu Gold, 106-1 Carhu Gold, 108-1 Carhu Gold, 110-1 Carhu Gold, 112-1 Carhu Gold, 114-1 Carhu Gold, 116-1 Carhu 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# Duval's path to top paved with gold

Andy Farrell on the man who has now officially ended Tiger Woods' 41-week reign as the world's No 1 golfer

SO ENDS three months of controversy and arguments over the authenticity of the golf world rankings. Yesterday came confirmation of what many people have been saying all year, namely that David Duval is the best player in the world. The 27-year-old American ended Tiger Woods' 41-week stay in the No 1 spot. There could have been no more fitting way for Duval to initiate the switch than by winning the Players' Championship, his local tournament, on Sunday evening.

The victory was Duval's 10th in the past 18 months and his third of the season. The \$560,000 first prize sent him back to the top of the US money list and it came on the same day that his father, Bob, won his maiden tournament on the Senior Tour. A resident of nearby Jacksonville Beach, Duval received a hero's welcome on the 18th green.

His up-and-down from the back of the green gave him a closing round of 73, a total of three under and a two-stroke win over the only other man to break par on the Stadium Course for four rounds, Scott Gump. Having twice holed from off the green during his round, it was a magnificent tee shot to six feet on the island green of the 17th hole, and the subsequent birdie putt, that sealed an emotional victory for the usually placid Duval.

"I felt the vibes from the gallery all the way round. Some of the noise was deafening, people were going nuts. This is a wonderful day," Duval said. "This has been a wonderful year, and it is only March. I grew up sitting behind the practice range at this tournament and there are only a couple of others I would rather win. I'm not going to say I always dreamed of winning here because I knew it would be a very difficult thing to do."

Only a major title - he was second to Mark O'Meara at the Masters last year - remains absent from Duval's career record. While he describes the Players' as a "near-major", it is a tournament that tends to be won by players who are, or who later become, major champions. The immediate past eight winners all

## DUVAL STANDARDS

**DAVID ROBERT DUVAL**  
Age: 27  
Davis, Jacksonville, Florida; son of US Senior Tour pro, Bob Duval.

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**  
1991: Semi-finalist, British Amateur Championship.  
1991: Member of US Walker Cup team.

1993: Turned professional.  
1997: First US Tour victory at Michael's championship.

1998: No 1 on US money list with a record \$2,591,031 (£1.63m).  
1998: US Masters runner-up.

1999: Becomes world No 1 after winning 'tournament Players' Championship, Sawgrass. The victory is his 10th in the last 18 months and his third of 1999; at the same time he becomes the 13th player in US Tour history to amass over \$9m in total career earnings.

fall into that category and there is no reason to believe the trend will be broken.

Earlier this year, Duval won the Bob Hope Classic in the most dramatic way imaginable, equalling the lowest score on the Tour of 59 in the final round. At the TPC of Sawgrass, Duval grinded out a win against an extremely strong field and on a demanding course.

His 10 wins have come in his last 33 events and it is hard to believe that he once had a reputation for blowing out of the final day. His father could not have sought advice from a better source when he spoke to Duval Jr on Saturday. "I told him, you'll think about winning all day and there is nothing you can do

## WORLD TOP 20

(US unless stated)

Name	Av pts
1 D Duval	12.75
2 T Woods	12.62
3 D Love III	10.33
4 M O'Meara	9.96
5 E Els (SA)	9.13
6 L Westwood (GB)	8.89
7 V Singh (FIJ)	8.85
8 N Price (Zim)	8.33
9 C Montgomerie (GB)	8.22
10 F Couples	7.43
11 J Furyk	7.33
12 J Leonard	6.95
13 M Oski (Japan)	6.85
14 P Mickelson	6.82
15 J Maggert	5.96
16 D Clarke (GB)	5.64
17 P Siewart	5.62
18 J Famerik (Swe)	5.61
19 S Elkington (Aus)	5.40
20 T Lehman	5.17

about it. Don't try and block it out, just try and embrace it."

Thinking about being the world No 1 was not a consideration for Duval, who earlier in the week voiced mild criticisms of the way the rankings work. "It is nice to be ranked No 1," Duval said, "but it is not a concern of mine. I have been playing well for a while and won a lot of tournaments. When I won my ninth [tournament] and didn't get to No 1, I told myself to forget about it and just play golf. But I did set the goal of reaching double-digit wins before the end of the season and I achieved that today."

Woods might have chugged onto his crown had he parred the last to finish tied for sixth place. Duval, characteristically, was not about to write off the Tiger era. "I was the best player this week," was his summary.

One look at the severe set-up of the course made Duval feel comfortable, and Lee Westwood took the same approach. The 25-year-old from Workson, who has won 11 times worldwide in the time Duval has won his 10, was one of those tied for sixth, five behind the winner, after a 73.

While Colin Montgomerie slumped to a closing 79 for the second Sunday running, Westwood battled away in encouraging fashion, progressing up the leaderboard thanks to a level-par back nine. "It's coming back to where I was," he said. "I was rusty at the beginning of the week but I am much more confident now. I need to play a lot, and I have not done that this year, but I also needed the break over the winter."

This time last year, Westwood finished fifth at Sawgrass and then went on to win in New Orleans the following week, but then had a poor Masters. His top-10 finish here meant he was eligible to play in the Bell South Classic in Atlanta this week, but Westwood will stick to his plans of taking a working holiday in the Bahamas before arriving early at Augusta.

"There was no decision to be made," Westwood said of the chance to tee up again this week. "I will play a couple of rounds but otherwise switch off. I feel I can contend in majors now."



David Duval holds his arms aloft after the victory at Sawgrass which confirmed him as the new world No 1 AP

## England have to settle for draw

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

Argentina	2
England	2

A HOTLY-DISPUTED penalty corner award two minutes from time led to Santiago Capurro equalising for Argentina as England drew 2-2 in the second game of their tour in Buenos Aires on Sunday.

England, showing much improved form from what they displayed in their 4-1 draw last Thursday, started strongly with the substitute Calum Gilles putting them ahead two minutes before the interval at a penalty corner he had earned himself.

With Danny Hall forcing his way along the by line to score a second goal for England 20 minutes into the second half, an England victory looked probable.

But within a minute, Argentina had pulled a goal back through their captain Carlos Retegui to lead to a tense finish in which England conceded that late equaliser.

England's coach, Barry Dancer, gave first caps to Canterbury's goalkeeper Simon Triggs and Bourville's medical student, Tom Bertram.

Dancer commented after the game: "It is pleasing to see the two new players play so well today. This augurs well for generating greater depth in our National squad."

"The challenge ahead is to maintain progress in the gruelling programme ahead of five games over the next seven days."

England play South Africa this evening.

Argentina: R Schme, E Pajon, M Pellegrini, R Perez, C Retegui, J Lombi, R Vila, S Capurro, F McCormick, A Castelli, G Orsico. Substitutes: M Flores & M Vila.  
England: S Triggs (Canterbury), M Johnson (Canterbury), J Hall (Canterbury), T Bertram (Bourville), D Gilles (Canterbury), D Woods (Southgate), B Garwood (Heddon), R Garcia (Hartlepool), R Sharpe (Canterbury), D Gower (Havant), M Peters (Reading). Substitutes: C Gilles (Southgate), B Dancer (Reading), J Hall (Reading), D Hall (Gillingham).  
Umpires: J C D Pardo (Arg) & C Hough (Eng).

■ In Wales, Swansea have won the Women's Midland Bank Welsh League while their men have appealed against the forfeiture of their game against Weston-super-Mare in the West of England and South Wales Premier Division. Weston understood that the match had been rescheduled to take place at their ground, while Swansea waited in Wales. Swansea forfeited the match because the League maintained that they had been informed of the switch.

# Serbian players fall foul of Uefa Scots to test Elliott injury

## YUGOSLAVIA

SASA CURCIC, Crystal Palace's Serbian midfielder, has fallen foul of European football's ruling body after protesting at the weekend against Nato's bombing campaign in Yugoslavia.

Curcic walked on to the Selhurst Park pitch before Sunday's Nationwide League First Division game against Bradford City waving a placard which read: "Stop Nato bombing." Yesterday, in response to protests by Curcic and other Yugoslav players elsewhere in Europe, a Uefa spokesman said: "Although recognising the gravity of the situation, our official stance is quite clear: politics should not be mixed with football."

"While sympathising with the players' anxiety and desire to do something, Uefa feels that the players have certain obligations to their clubs and to the game of football. This is the clear standpoint which will be conveyed to players, clubs and to the Yugoslav national association itself." The Yugoslav FA had urged Serb expatriates

not to play for clubs based in Nato member countries. The former Aston Villa striker Savo Milosevic, now with Real Zaragoza, was part of a demonstration by Yugoslav players based in Spain outside the American embassy in Madrid. Real Madrid's Predrag Mijatovic and the Celta Vigo defender Goran Djorovic were also part of the same protest. Mijatovic has apparently appointed himself spokesman for the Yugoslav players in Spain. The international striker said: "Footballers are not going to play while our families cannot come out of their cells."

While Spain's First Division footballers had the weekend off,

there was a full Second Division programme. Fifteen Yugoslav players were faced with making the choice of whether to play or not. Four chose to withdraw their labour: four were either dropped or made substitute while the other seven men played - although some wore black armbands.

The former Kilmarnock goalkeeper Dragoje Lekovic refused to play for his Spanish club, Malaga, but his compatriot Dejan Markovic turned out for Osasuna. "I wanted to play to show that the Yugoslavs are not assassins," he said. "I'm not in agreement with those that aren't playing. That way, we're not proving anything."

In France, the Metz striker Vlado Lukic is heading for home. "What they're doing to my country is a scandal. So I'm off," he said. "It's my duty to leave because my country is under attack. I don't know how I'll get there but I'll manage."

The Juventus defender Zoran Mirkovic returned to Italy from Belgrade on Saturday after the postponement of Yugoslavia's Euro 2000 qualifier against Croatia and said: "I



German striker Carsten Jancker shows off his skills in training for tomorrow's match against Finland Reuters

saw my town burning last night. It is shameful for the whole of Europe. They are killing people

in front of everyone's eyes." Despite the disruption the conflict is causing to the Euro-

pean Championship fixture schedule, Uefa has no plans to exclude Yugoslavia.

"We are not thinking of playing without any of the [Balkan] countries," Guido Tognoni, a Uefa spokesman, said yesterday. "But we all agree that, for the moment, football has to step back."

## SOUTH KOREA

BRAZIL'S NATIONAL squad arrived in Japan yesterday still stunned by Sunday's shock 1-0 defeat to South Korea.

Brazil's coach, Wanderley Luxemburgo, who included six newcomers for the trip to Asia in his build-up to the Copa America in June and next year's Sydney Olympics, said: "They're still not used to each other so they didn't play as a unit. South Korea kept coming at us for the full 90 minutes - I'll have to sit down and analyse what went wrong."

Kim Do-hoon's last-minute goal for South Korea condemned Brazil to their first defeat under Luxemburgo, whose team take on Japan tomorrow in Tokyo.

EVEN AFTER a weekend in which the most energetic squad activity was kicking their heels following the postponement of Bosnia's visit, Scotland's preparations for tomorrow's European Championship Group Nine summit meeting with the Czech Republic in Glasgow have been undermined by an injury scare.

Matt Elliott, the London-born Leicester defender who was in line to replace long-term casualty Colin Hendry at Celtic Park, reported a back strain which Craig Brown described as a "major worry". The Scotland manager added: "Matt will have to prove himself 100 per cent fit for me to pick him. I couldn't consider letting him start otherwise."

Another of the Anglo-Scots, the Celtic goalkeeper Jonathan Gould, has been given compassionate leave from their coastal headquarters at Troon after complications with his wife's pregnancy. Gould was expected to understudy Neil Sullivan, but Brown will have to re-examine his options unless he returns today.

While Brown is aware of Scotland's reputation for having some players with more call-offs than caps, he views it as a British rather than a Scottish problem. Reflecting on his trip to Teplice on Saturday to watch the Czechs' 2-0 defeat of Lithuania, he claimed he could have named their starting XI before he arrived, as well as those of most teams involved in Championship qualifiers that day.

"I might have struggled to predict the British sides, though," said Brown. "The way we play our football in the English and Scottish Premiership is very physical, and fiercely com-

petitive compared with the more technical game in somewhere like France. Those countries don't have players missing constantly the way we do. The only Czech who has been out lately is Pavel Nedved, and he played against Lithuania."

Reports that Kevin Keegan had used a Scottish sports psychologist, Watt Nicol, to put England's players in the right frame of mind ahead of their win over Poland were received with indifference bordering on scepticism in the Scotland camp. Nicol, the self-styled "guru of personal reinvention", comes from Brown's adopted county, Ayrshire, but there will be no call for him to do his patriotic duty.

Although his predecessor, Andy Roxburgh, used a psychologist called Jack Black, Brown is of the opinion that it is the manager's job to provide motivation for those players who need it. Some already work with psychologists at their clubs and he was concerned that they might be confused by being exposed to different methods.

But the bottom line, he argued, was that international players must already possess a certain amount of will power to achieve and sustain such status. "I think England would have won 3-1 anyway because of their own qualities, those of their manager and the nature of the opposition," Brown said.

Against the Czechs, who boast a 100 per cent record in the group, Brown's singular talent for reinventing Scotland's line-up in the face of adversity looks likely to be tested to the full.

# Houllier sends scouts to assess Georgatos

BY ALAN NIXON

THE LIVERPOOL manager Gerard Houllier is pursuing the Greek international Grigoris Georgatos as a replacement for Steve McManaman. Houllier sent his assistant, Phil Thompson, and chief scout Ron Yeats to watch the Olympiakos player on international duty against Norway at the weekend. Georgatos can operate as a winger, a full-back

or a wing-back and is priced at around £3.5m because of interest in Italy. The 26-year-old was one of the key figures in the club's run to the quarter-finals of the Champions' League, and Juventus were showing an interest before Marcello Lippi resigned as coach. Georgatos's price tag is not

much dearer than Crewe's Seth Johnson, the England Under-21 midfielder who is another Anfield target. Johnson is joining Liverpool for training before the end of the season.

John Gregory has told Paul Merson that Aston Villa will do all they can to help him with his personal problems as long as the England player remains committed to the club. The manager

said: "As with any player we will support him if he needs help. However, he needs to support us on the pitch as well."

The England winger Jason Wilcox has committed his long-term future to Blackburn Rovers. Wilcox, a one club man, has signed a new five-year contract which will keep him at Ewood Park until the summer of 2004. The young defender

Martin Taylor has also agreed a new five-year contract.

Jordi Cruyff is returning to Manchester United. The Dutchman has been on loan to Celta Vigo since January and feared his United days could be over, but Alex Ferguson has told him he wants to see him back for the start of next season.

One of the first women to be appointed managing director of

a Football League club resigned yesterday after five years in the job. Gill Bridge, appointed as managing director at Blackpool in 1994, resigned after Karl Oyston, the son of the jailed former chairman, Owen Oyston, took over as acting chairman earlier this year and after the previous chair - Owen's wife Vicky - took a back seat at the club.









DUVAL ON TOP OF THE WORLD P22 • SPEED THE WELSH PATRIOT P19



# Hypnotist, speedway rider, dustman, writer, zoologist, window cleaner, singer... and the man behind England's 3-1 win over Poland

BY GLENN MOORE

WHEN KEVIN KEEGAN revealed he had engaged a "motivator" to talk to the England players for Saturday's victory over Poland at Wembley he would only say - with a view to the way Glenn Hoddle was pilloried over his dependence on the faith healer Eileen Drewery and a belief in reincarnation - that he was Scottish but not "weird".

Mr Mac Motivator was revealed yesterday and, while he may not be weird, he is certainly colourful, having packed more into the 63 years of his one life than most people would manage in several.

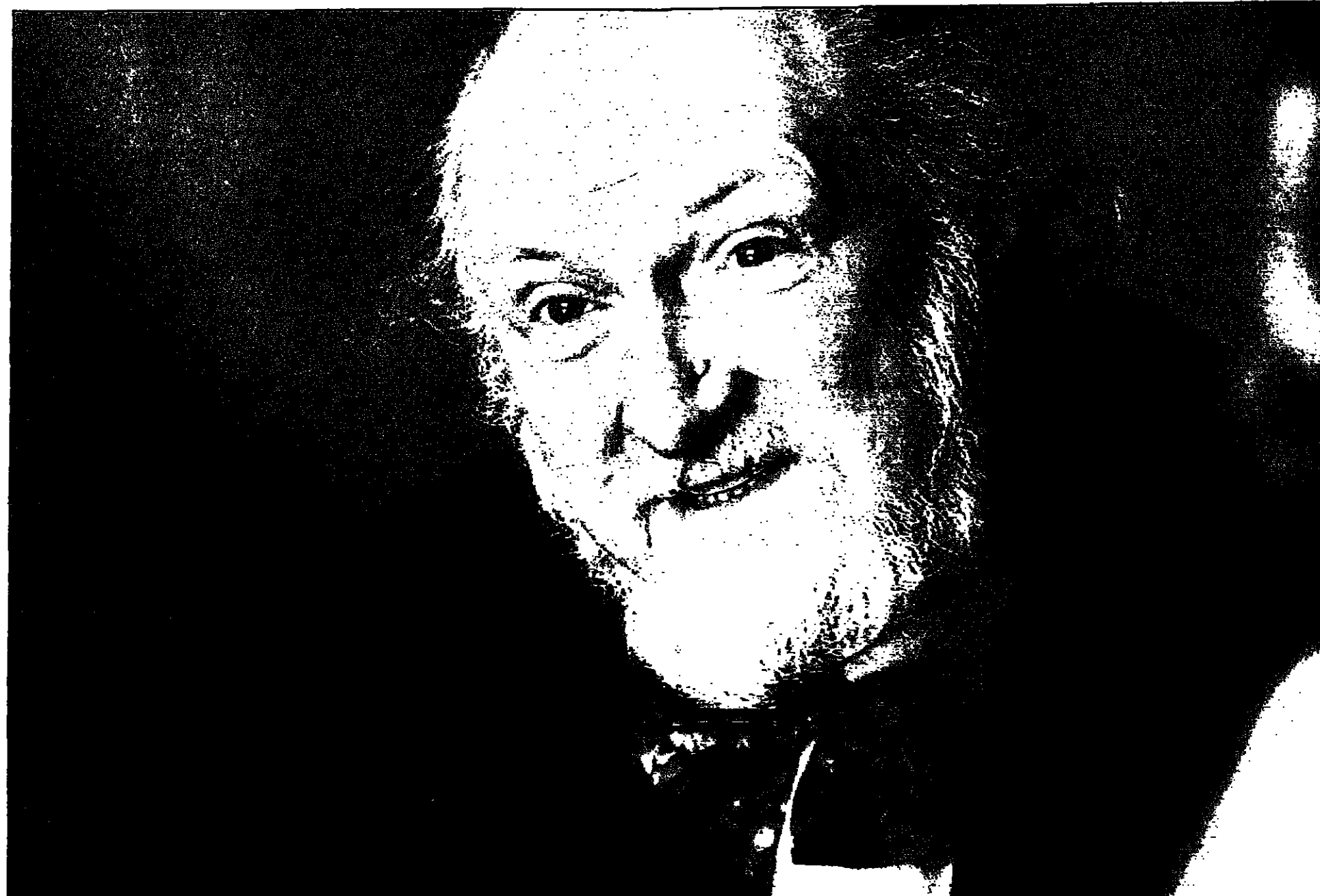
Watt Nicoll, discovered by Keegan giving a motivational talk at a business conference in Nottingham four years ago, began his working life as a prospective vet before attempting a variety of occupations varying from professional speedway rider to window cleaner, eventually establishing himself as an entertainer. While primarily a folk singer he also played in a band called the Dirty Figs and wrote scripts for Norman Wisdom.

Along the way he has run the full gamut of human experience, which includes marriage, fatherhood and divorce, wealth, bankruptcy and homelessness.

Nicoll spent an hour in the company of the England players on Thursday evening and handed them a copy of his book, *Twisted Knickers and Stolen Scones*, at the end of the session after addressing them on motivation techniques.

To judge from a phone call he said he received from Keegan yesterday, he clearly made an impression. Nicoll said: "Kevin said the players were still talking about my meeting with them at half-time."

Nicoll, who was presented with a signed England shirt by Keegan and the squad, picked up his motivational techniques in America and has concentrated on that profession in recent years. Ayrshire born, he describes himself on his



Mr Mac Motivator: Watt Nicoll, who addressed the England players for an hour, was discovered by Kevin Keegan giving a talk at a business conference. The Scotsman

business card as Watt Nicoll MP. "That stands for motivated person, guru of personal reinvention," he said.

Watt added: "It's difficult to describe the technique I used with the England squad. I was over there for one evening only and spent an hour in a group

environment. It was a motivational experience.

"What I try and do in a situation like this is to try and destroy the team ethic and focus more on the individual. I didn't sing, though. I think that might have de-motivated them."

In his book Nicoll writes: "In

my adult life I set out to be a vet, studied zoology, rode on the professional speedway circuit, apprenticed as a saw doctor and recorded 14 albums as a folk singer.

"I have also worked as a script writer, playwright, window cleaner, stage hypnotist,

dustman and TV presenter. I have spent long periods in hospital, married, divorced, travelled abroad, become well off, remarried, become a bankrupt and slept rough.

"My first well paid job was the Pet Man on Scottish Television's children's programme

Roundabout and my zoology studies went downhill from there.

"I became semi-famous as a folk singer in the same era that spawned the likes of Billy Connolly, Hamish Imlach and Barbara Dickson.

"But the strangest twist oc-

curred when a play I wrote for a London theatre led to a study of behavioural psychology.

"I ended up touring for years, performing to capacity audiences, techniques that everyone insisted was stage hypnosis but I know it is something else. The realisation that

## THE THOUGHTS OF WATT NICOLL - 'GURU OF PERSONAL RE-INVENTION'

"Fairness is a fantasy concept people use to excuse themselves from their inadequacies"

"Motivation is activating a mental button which produces maximum focus"

"Attitude is more important than good looks, talent or intelligence"

"Women are incredible motivators. I believe men are supposed to be motivated by women"

"I do not accept that we do well by being sporting losers or fighting to the end. Give me the opportunity and I guarantee Scottish-born people can win gold on the sports field, world cups in team events and accolades in any other field of human endeavour."

we can be anything we want to be has been an inspiring and exciting revelation for me.

"My passion is in helping people fulfil their potential and it is very rewarding."

England's performance on Saturday would tend to suggest that Paul Scholes listened more intently than Steve McManaman but, like Hoddle's use of Drewery, this is clearly something from which some people will benefit more than others. The use of motivators - or, more often, trained sports psychologists - is widespread in professional sport, particularly in the United States, but also in the UK, with the England cricket team particularly keen on the concept.

Many sportsmen do seem to benefit. However, the danger comes if team selection is perceived to be influenced by the "outsider" as was believed to be Hoddle's case by some people with Drewery.

## Euro 2000 deal just the ticket

BY STEVE BEAUCHAMPE in Rotterdam

THE FIRST tickets for next year's European Championship finals in the Netherlands and Belgium went on sale yesterday, as the organisers announced details of a distribution system which they promised would guarantee greater access for genuine supporters.

Members of the Euro 2000 board are keen to avoid a repeat of the debacle of last year's World Cup, where fans around the globe were angered both by the restricting of the sale of many tickets to the host nation's supporters and by the fact that large numbers of tickets ended up on the black market. There will also be no repeat of last year's system of telephone hot-lines, which saw phone lines around the world swamped by a late dash for the last tickets.

While 34 per cent of the 1.23 million tickets will go on sale

after the draw for the finals in December - those tickets will be allocated according to which countries have qualified - an initial tranche of 420,000 tickets covering each of the tournament's 31 matches are being made available to supporters throughout Europe. Applications must be submitted by 7 May this year.

To purchase tickets fans must first obtain an application form, by downloading one from the Internet or applying to the organisers in Rotterdam.

Prices range from €20 to €80 for a group game, rising to €45 to €150 for the final. However, organisers stressed that 50 per cent of the tournament's entire allocation would be priced below 110 guilders (£35).

Tickets will be limited to two per person per match and can be paid for in two instalments. Supporters will learn in June whether their applications have been successful and a mechanism will be put in place which allows fans unable to attend matches to nominate someone to take their place. Those attending group games will increase their chances of successfully applying for the knock-out phase.

Harry Been, the Euro 2000

### WAYS TO APPLY FOR EURO 2000 TICKETS

Post: Euro 2000 Foundation, Ticketing Department, PO Box 70028, 3000 UK Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Fax: (00 31) 10 297 4117  
Internet: www.euro2000.org

board secretary, explained that these tickets were aimed primarily at the fans who just wanted to be part of the event and did not necessarily mind who they saw play. He was also keen to point out that, should British teams fail to qualify, it will be virtually impossible to purchase tickets for the finals through official sources.

Although it will not be known until the final draw takes place on 12 December which teams will contest specific fixtures, it is known that Belgium will play their three group games in Brussels, while the Netherlands will play twice in Rotterdam and once in Amsterdam. The tournament begins on 10 June and ends on 2 July.

Those solely interested in following their own country should, however, wait. It will be early in 2000 before tickets for

fans of the finalists go on sale. Each country will receive roughly 17 per cent of the venues' capacity - up from the mere eight per cent available at France 98.

In another significant change from past tournaments, there will be no use of authorised tour operators, many of whom stood accused of exploiting fans by charging excessively for package trips linked to tickets for the World Cup in France.

However, even these changes are not expected to wipe out the touts completely. The decision by Uefa, European football's governing body, to allocate 233,000 tickets to sponsors, suppliers and corporate hospitality may yet fuel the black market, as will the fact that five of the eight stadia being used have capacities of only around 30,000.

## Walsh salvo leaves Australia reeling

AUSTRALIA WERE bowled out for 146 after lunch in their second innings on the fourth day to leave the West Indies needing 308 to win the third Test here yesterday. The tourists had slumped to 81 for 6 at lunch after a disastrous opening session.

Ricky Ponting had been unbeaten on 11 at lunch with Ian Healy on three as the Australians fought to re-establish their grip after losing four wickets for just 63 runs during the morning. However, Ponting became another of Courtney Walsh's five victims and it was left to Shane Warne to top score for Australia, making 32 before Walsh trapped him low.

### CRICKET

BY TONY COZIER in Bridgetown, Barbados

Australia 490 & 146  
West Indies 329

The visitors resumed their innings at 18 for 2, but the West Indies quickly made inroads into the tourists' batting line-up. The opener Michael Slater was the first man to go when he was run out for 26 by a superb throw from Sherwin Campbell. Slater went recklessly for a second run and Campbell scored a direct hit on the stumps from point with Slater

just centimetres from safety. The nightwatchman Jason Gillespie soon followed, for 14, when Curtly Ambrose pitched a ball outside the off stump that turned and removed both the off and middle stumps.

When Mark Waugh was lbw plumb in front to Walsh for three the Australians had slipped to 48 for 5. Worse was to follow for the tourists as the captain Steve Waugh, who made 199 in the first innings, was out for 11 when he chopped a useful delivery from Pedro Collins onto his stumps.

That made it 73 for 6 before Ponting and Healy edged Australia to lunch. The four-match

series is all square at 1-1. Australia won the opening Test in Trinidad by 312 runs but the West Indies levelled it in Jamaica in the second Test with a 10-wicket triumph.

The West Indies are hoping to get a clearer idea today of when their injured batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul will be fit to return to their team. Chanderpaul was sent to a New York hospital at the weekend for further tests on the right shoulder he damaged near the end of the tour of South Africa earlier this year.

The West Indies' Cricket Board chief executive officer Steve Camacho said the deci-

sion to send the Guyana left-hander to New York was "a precautionary measure".

Fourth day: Australia won 490 (S R Waugh 199, R T Ponting 104), West Indies 329 (S R Waugh 105, R D Jacobs 66, G D McGrath 4-120).

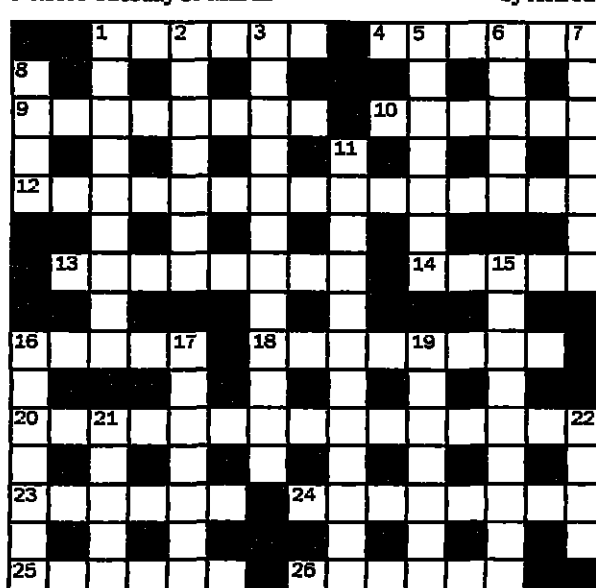
Australia - Second innings  
M T G Elliott c Jacobs b Walsh 0  
M J Slater run out (Campbell) 26  
J L Langer bow b Ambrose 1  
J N Gillespie b Ambrose 14  
M E Waugh bow b Walsh 3  
S R Waugh b Collins b Walsh 22  
R T Ponting c Griffiths b Walsh 11  
N A Healy c Jacobs b Collins 33  
S K Warne bow b Walsh 32  
S C G McGrath c Campbell b Walsh 1  
G D McGrath not out 8  
Extras (lb 1, nb 15) 16  
Total (50.1 overs) 490  
Fall: 0-1, 2-12, 3-35, 4-46, 5-48, 6-73, 7-81, 8-134, 9-137  
Bowling: Walsh 17-1-3-39, S Ambrose 20-2-6-21, Collins 9-0-31-2, Perry 4-0-11-0.

### THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3882 Tuesday 30 March

by Aired

Monday's Solution



#### ACROSS

- 1 Noteworthy trace
- 4 Get away from Spain's headland (6)
- 9 Smarten up star to feature in network (8)
- 10 Shouting for credit with ven to mix gin (6)
- 12 Dead silent? (5,2,3,5)
- 13 Become sore with poor clue to criticise (8)
- 14 Lout turned over grass circles (5)
- 16 Second vessel becomes a drain (5)
- 18 Climber would not be out of puff with this (8)
- 20 A sight better after seeing this medical practitioner? (15)
- 23 Inflate and explode (4,2)
- 24 Strand a group of people

#### DOWN

- 1 They are related by saint over, say, crime legislation (4-3-3)
- 2 Made presentation drinking tot poured out in dance (7)
- 3 Earliest lawn growing watered from this? (8,4)
- 5 Has to show sorrow about a horse being gaunt (7)
- 6 Woman who is an idiot in motoring organisation (5)
- 7 Painter of old Greece possibly dismissive of

#### editor (2,5)

- 8 A country one's right to put a question to? (4)
- 11 Investigator of bumps? (12)
- 15 Useful quality shown by worker? (9)
- 16 Second high hither makes one slaver (7)
- 17 Move of hero - new employment (7)
- 19 British worker holding you up? Could be holding you up (7)
- 21 Henry's high cost for very offensive thing (1-4)
- 22 Short Archbishop is making sounds of disapproval (4)



# TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMUNITY • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Venus Williams has won more than \$2.5m in prize money. Serena is on the way to her first million. They've just become the first sisters since 1884 to compete in a major singles tennis final. It's all beyond the wildest dreams of their father, coach and manager, Richard. At least it would be if his other ambitions didn't include buying the \$3.9bn Rockefeller Center and outsinging Michael Jackson...

BY JOHN ROBERTS

## Like the man says, it's one hell of a double act

**T**he Williams Sisters are guided through a crowd of spectators as they leave the tennis stadium. Serena, aged 17, sets off in her yellow BMW Z3. She is the loser, and has a cheque for \$22,500. Venus, 18, the winner of the first prize, \$165,000, walks beyond her black Porsche 911 and squeezes into the hatchback boot of a Mercedes station wagon (the seats in front are filled by tournament officials) and is driven to the beach for a photo-shoot.

Work done, victor and vanquished arrive back at the family home along the Florida coast at Boca Raton and try to get on with their lives as though nothing unusual has taken place, as if they have returned from one of their regular workouts together on a practice court. They say there will be no floating, no sulking. "In the end," Venus says, "it's a competition. The best competitor wins. As soon as you walk off the court, the competition's over."

This had not been a normal Sunday. Venus and Serena had become the first sisters to contest the singles final in a high-level tournament since women were first allowed to compete at Wimbledon in 1884. In that year, Maud Watson defeated her sister Lilian, presumably by playing the better strokes while coping with a tight corset and managing not to catch her foot in the hem of her long dress.

The Watsons were quintessentially English, daughters of a clergyman who taught at Harrow and also typical devotees of a sport that has traditionally been the preserve of privileged whites. The Williams sisters are African-Americans whose father, sharecropper's son from Shreveport, Louisiana, refers to himself as King Richard. He publishes a newsletter in which he explains how he made peace with men who gave guidance to members of the ludoos gang, who shot at his daughters when they played on park courts in Compton, Los Angeles.

To listen to Richard Williams is to get sense of what it might have been like to live an audience with Walter Mitty. He is a busy developing business, he says, to end a lot of time watching Venus and Serena play. "Every year I develop three businesses," he says, "and every business I develop, I expect to produce anywhere from \$1m to \$15m a year. The girls get really set with me because I won't go [to match]. They go, 'You the coach'; I say, 'No, I'm manager, too'. As a matter of fact, we're looking about buying Rockefeller Center - \$3.9bn, so I don't have time to even think out tennis no more."

This is understandable, seeing that his projects apparently include "a lot of work for the Chinese peoples and the Japanese peoples and so on". He has taken singing, too - "I plan to push Michael Jackson, if I can" - and a book is to be published in August. "Some people have said I was mad anyway, so it's called *Method to My Madness*."

It is an apt title, because whether or not Richard Williams is kidding himself or kidding the media, his achievement as his daughters' mentor is phenomenal. In next to no time, Venus has won more than \$2.5m in official prize money alone, and Serena is heading for her first \$1m. And that is aside from the millions they receive from sponsorships and endorsements.

The sheer size and power of Venus and Serena is an indication of how women's professional tennis has risen to a new and pulverising level, a level that would have left previous generations gasping. Surprisingly, the Williams sisters were withheld from junior tournaments, forgoing the customary route to the professional game. Their father said he did not want to risk "burn-out".

Their mother, Oracene, does most of the travelling with the girls. "I'm a mother, I'm a wife, I'm a coach," she says. "And at home I have so many other activities, because I take care of the finances. My husband is an idealist, and he's very creative."

Although clearly one source of the family's strength, Richard Williams does not share their religion. "I'm not a Jehovah Witness," he says. "They are. And I've taught them to make decisions. So whatever decision they make, they would make that decision..."

But Richard Williams is strong on family unity. "My mom taught me that family is the oldest human institution; that it is society's basic unit. Entire civilisations have survived or disappeared depending on whether family life was weak or strong. I taught my kids what my mom taught me."

"Tell you something - when Venus was about four years old, my mom said, 'You can't raise two kids like I brought you up in the Forties and Fifties'. I said, 'Yes, ma'am'. But I brought them up that way anyway, because they started working at two years old. My wife was really upset with me about that. But we never have a problem with what goes on, because

"King" Richard Williams (top) and his daughters, Serena (left) and Venus (right) Brian Harris

they're looking to help each other all the time."

Along with the power and the tennis skills, there is an air of arrogance and defiance about the Williams sisters.

They differ from the majority of single-minded, parent-driven tennis prodigies, emboldened partly by their sense of their own differentness, and partly by their solidarity as a pair. "We are really setting the standards for the future generation," Serena has declared. "Tennis is always going to take a step up now that we've come along."

On one occasion, the younger Williams took the opportunity to educate the assembled media about the etymology of the word "ghetto". "It was a German word," she declared during a press conference. "They took the Jewish people out of their homes because the Germans wanted to be on a pedestal compared to the Jews..."

"There was no sanitation area, facilities to use inside or

anything. So they named it the ghetto..."

A reporter contradicted her: "That goes back to the Middle Ages. That's not just from the 20th century."

She persisted. "That was World War II." The reporter pressed on: "Goes back way before that."

Serena would not budge: "You have your information and I have mine."

Last week, on the subject of siblings, Serena was asked whether she was aware that the older one tends to have the upper hand mentally. "I was never aware of siblings having the upper hand mentally," she said. "I think that's just something that's in a book. You can't always trust that."

We can only guess what the late Arthur Ashe would have made of the Williamses. The 1975 Wimbledon champion emerged triumphantly from the racial prejudice he encountered growing up in Virginia and became a sporting icon of the civil rights movement, beloved of his peers. The tennis stadium at the US Open is named in his honour. But the Williams family has prospered in different times. Richard Williams is only too happy to acknowledge that for all the drawbacks to being black in America, hard work can bring rewards.

"I don't think a lot of people understand how good America is until they leave this country," he says. "I know when I was young, I used to say, 'To hell with America'. But when I got a chance to travel, and when you see what it's like in these other countries... brother, I love America."

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MEDIA

## Send in the troops

Sir: Nato's use of massive air strikes against Yugoslavia will be seen by much of rest of the world as huge overkill against a small nation which is fighting, however savagely, for its own sovereign territory.

A better way to deal with the crisis would have been to deploy troops in Kosovo. Troops could have guarded the indigenous civilian population, and kept the KLA in check. Massive use of air power will undoubtedly seriously weaken the Yugoslav army, but will not stop its infantry burning villages in Kosovo unless it faces ground troops too.

If the West isn't willing to put its soldiers' lives on the line, then why are we bothering with the whole business of Kosovo anyway?

The absence of United Nations involvement serves notice that the organisation has latterly turned into a body for rubber-stamping resolutions against the West's antagonists when required.

HOWARD GETHIN  
Bristol

Sir: Anne McElvoy preaches at me for "petty selfishness" (Comment, 24 March) for arguing in the *Daily Mail* that the Nato attack on Yugoslavia, a sovereign state committing no aggression beyond its own borders, is a breach of the UN Charter and likewise of the North Atlantic Treaty. Does she think that morally condemning my article destroys the validity of its political and strategic analysis?

Since I wrote and she wrote, the course of events is proving sceptics like myself (who include an impressive array of retired military men and elder statesmen from Kissinger to Healey) to have been completely correct in our judgement that Nato's ill-thought-out policy, based on emotion and simplistic moralising, would lead to disaster. In particular, it has plunged the Kosovans, the objects of Nato's solicitude, into their present calamity.

Perhaps this experience will teach "Bomber" Blair and "Cruise" Clinton that state policy should be based on sense rather than sensibility.

CORRELLI BARNETT  
East Carlton, Norfolk

Sir: On Thursday you reported Mr Blair as saying we were taking military action "to damage Serb forces sufficiently to prevent Milosevic from continuing to perpetuate his vile oppression against innocent Albanian civilians". On Saturday you headline: "Serbs retaliate with massacres".

How damaged will Serb military installations need to be before Serb police forces reduce their massacre rate to what it was before Nato started its air action? How many thousands will need to be massacred before we are told it has been necessary to send in ground troops? How long before we have pictures of body bags being unloaded in the UK?

BOB ESCOLME  
Wulberton, West Sussex

Sir: When will we ever learn? In 1941, the Luftwaffe launched night bombing raids on this country, with the object of weakening civilian morale. Much damage was caused, many were killed or injured, but morale remained staunch.

Learning nothing from this, Churchill's War Cabinet directed Bomber Command to conduct bombing raids on Germany with the intent of weakening workers' morale, specifically targeting working-class districts. Great destruction ensued, casualties were heavy, but the strategy failed. Sir Charles Webster and Noble Frankland, who studied the effects of the bombing campaign, concluded in 1961 that "the morale of German workforce, like the British, was not significantly impaired".

Learning nothing from this, the United States during the Vietnam War of the 1970s launched a bombing campaign of unprecedented ferocity against the Vietcong. Many were killed, great tracts laid waste, but, in the

event, it was American political will, not Vietnamese, that broke.

Now Nato, having learnt nothing from previous bombing campaigns, has launched its own against Serbia with the intention of breaking Serb will, in particular that of Mr Milosevic. One may predict that it will fail. Serb morale will not falter; it may well, like the British, German, and Russian during the Second World War, be strengthened by adversity. Bombing raids will not stop the eviction of Kosovars, any more than the United States and British bombing campaigns halted Hitler's Holocaust.

In war, there is no substitute for infantry and armour. One should not play this dangerous game if one is not prepared to take heavy casualties.

Dr LESLIE PALMIER  
Bath

Sir: Whilst Nato has been bombing Serbian military targets, the Serb military and police have been rounding up Albanians in towns in Kosovo and spiriting them away. Yet it was our stated objective to protect the people of Kosovo. You cannot save people without putting humanitarian forces on the ground.

So we have lost. What now? I suspect that we will carry on bombing until the pygmies that we call our leaders tell us what a glorious victory we have achieved. Tell that to the people of Kosovo.

ROY TOPP  
Sanderstead, Surrey

Sir: The West is partly to blame for current massacres in Kosovo. During the six months of diplomacy, Milosevic was reinforcing his forces in Kosovo and the West sat back and let him do it. Had the bombing raids occurred six months ago, then there would have been far fewer Serbian troops in Kosovo to commit the current outrages.

MARC HURSTFIELD  
Northfleet, Kent

Sir: For the cost of all those cruise missiles, lost aircraft and bombs

being dropped on Serbia we could be having a far greater impact on future generations in achieving peace and justice by funding the sort of education programmes that Clare Short is visiting in India.

Why is it that we can always afford bombs and missiles immediately but we constantly struggle to reach the UN target of 0.7 per cent GNP for aid? Creating a just world will also create a peaceful world. I doubt if fighting "just wars" will.

ANDREW PRING  
Bradford, West Yorkshire

Sir: Much has been made of the fact that the current bombing of Serbia is the first time Nato has attacked a sovereign state. True, but the US - senior and heavyweight member of Nato - has a history of doing just that. Vietnam, and more recently Iraq, the unjustified bombing of the Sudan pharmaceutical factory. All have failed to achieve their objectives.

It is time that the equation USA equals Nato equals UN - commonly held in the US - is seen for what it is: might is right.

There will be winners from this war - the arms dealers and manufacturers.

HUGH BARRETT  
Halesworth, Suffolk

Sir: I would like to think that it was hypocrisy and not paying for sex that made the Joe Ashton story newsworthy (leading article, 29 March). If he had "taken the privacy of the individual seriously" he would not have decided to tack his ludicrous abuse-of-trust provisions on to the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, which reduced the homosexual age of consent.

CHRISTOPHER ANTON  
Birmingham

Sir: Hang on a minute. If the large supermarkets are shown to be charging too much and

## Palace coup

Sir: On 3 March Bromley Council had to commence the eviction of a group of squatters at great cost and risk to the staff of the under-sheriff, police and security teams which was only concluded last week when the last two walked out.

What they and the Crystal Palace Campaign ("A whiff of the secret state in a suburb", 15 March) wish to deny the local community is much more than just a leisure development. They are also trying to deny the business and resident communities access to a £150m regeneration scheme which will include the creation of 1,100 new full-time jobs, 120 new businesses and expenditure of £5m on training and educational projects.

They would also deny us the opportunity to expand and improve the historical Crystal Palace Park they claim to defend.

Your article gives a figure of 2,000 police and security guards as being present; 300 is more accurate.

CHRIS MAINES  
Leader, Liberal Democrat Group  
SUE POLYDOROU  
Leader, Labour Group  
MICHAEL TICKNER  
Leader, Conservative Group  
Bromley Council, Kent

## IN BRIEF

forced to reduce their prices (Business Outlook, 23 March), just how will that help the small independent food shops which are struggling to survive anyway?

HARVEY R COLE  
Winchester

Sir: In saying that the Tories under William Hague are looking "about as electable as Val Doonican", Deborah Ross (Review, 29 March) was unnecessarily disparaging of Val Doonican. At least Val can

Sir: It's all very well for Pat Palmer (Letter, 18 March) to be nostalgic about Crystal Palace Park in south-east London and to support its "regeneration". He/she resides in Beckenham.

Those of us who live in the shadow of Crystal Palace are less than enthusiastic about a "multiplex" with 18 cinema screens, nine restaurants and spaces for 950 cars.

I am sure the regeneration budget can be put to better use than inflicting this monstrosity on the area.

DAPHNE COWAN  
London SE21

## Indonesian horrors

Sir: The murders and mutilations Richard Lloyd Parry reports in West Kalimantan ("Apocalypse now", 25 March) are symptomatic of the systematic oppression of indigenous, tribal communities by the Indonesian state. Young Dayaks - dispossessed and disenfranchised in their own land - have taken the law into their own hands with horrific results.

The "combination of economic distress and the break down of law and order" prevailing in Indonesia to which Lloyd Parry briefly refers have a deeper

cause: the 32 years of Suharto's military dictatorship which marginalised all the indigenous peoples of the archipelago. The Dayaks, Malays and Madurese of West Kalimantan are just a few of the victims of a government "development" policy which handed over control of Indonesia's immense natural wealth to a small elite of the Suharto family, its business associates, the military and foreign companies.

The transmigration programme - backed directly by the World Bank in the 1970s and 80s - resettled 1,600,000 families, mainly from Java, Bali and Madura, to the outer islands.

Hundreds of thousands of "unofficial settlers" followed in their wake. The ancestral forests of many indigenous peoples were cleared to make way for the settlers. The Indonesian government admits to destroying over 1 million hectares of tropical rainforest for transmigration; the real figure is many times higher. Most of the forest and productive agricultural land in West Kalimantan has been parcelled out as concessions to logging and plantation companies.

No lessons have been learnt from the bloody conflict which left dozens dead and tens of thousands homeless in West Kalimantan in early 1997 or from the forest fires which devastated 5 million hectares of land in 1997 and a further 500,000 hectares in 1998. Since the fall of Suharto last May, the Habibie government has continued in his footsteps. Aided and abetted by the IMF and the World Bank, its answer to Indonesia's economic crisis is the exploitation of the country's natural resources to increase exports. The expansion of the oil palm industry and timber exports is a key element in this. Transmigration (and international support for it) has continued.

FRANCES CARR  
Down to Earth  
London SE15

Cooperphilly, Mid Glamorgan

There, ready to do the small tasks which they always did do. But I am in charge. And in a sense, this is more efficient than if I were really in the plane.

How can that be true? "Well, for a start, because I don't have all the hassle of getting to the airport and arriving tired and going through all the formalities and getting into uniforms that nobody in their right mind would want to wear... I can concentrate on the flying, and the flying alone."

But surely if you are 2,000 miles away from the plane you're flying, you don't have the same kind of involvement? "You'd think so, wouldn't you? And yet we have unmanned trains and unmanned space rockets, and nobody thinks that odd. Do you think a Nasa scientist would be

more involved if he were on board the flight? Or do you perhaps think he might be more detached in Dallas, and more efficient? It might be that unmanned jet passenger planes are the way forward, and that I am an accidental pioneer."

As he speaks, he leans forward and adjusts a couple of knobs. Suddenly, it dawns on us that all the time he has been chatting, he has in fact been flying a plane. But where is it? And where is it going? "Coming from New York to London. Where the plane is, it's still dark and everyone on board is asleep. That's another advantage of remote piloting - being wide awake in daylight while the plane you're flying is in the middle of the night. No danger of nodding off here! Oh, thanks, darling."

This to his wife, who has just

come in with a cup of coffee. And what does Mrs Stratford think of having a pilot husband at home all the time?

"It's great!" she says. "I used to miss him a lot. It was a strain on both of us. But now that he works at home, it's wonderful."

"Of course, it's a bit odd passing his study and hearing him say, 'If you look out of the starboard windows in five minutes, you can see the lights of Paris below you...' And we don't get the free flights any more. Just simulated flights. But as he's now got this fear of flying, that's just as well."

"And don't forget, honey," says Digby Stratford, "that if by a million-to-one chance the plane I am flying is involved in some terrible disaster, and everyone on board is lost - I'll still be alive!"

ROBERT VINCENT  
Andover, Hampshire

## Design for sneering

Sir: I, too, applaud the desire of Marco Goldschmidt, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, to convince us all of the importance of good design ("A fresh facade for British architecture", 22 March).

However, I entirely disagree with those who, like Robin Butterell, believe that the British public's conservative taste for architecture is "largely due to ignorance" (letter, 24 March).

In truth it is the ignorance of Riba establishment types which prevents them seeing the beauty, look and durability of classical and traditional architecture.

The mass-production approach to building design, mixed with socialist dogma and an unhealthy post-war economy has left future generations with a massive problem of unwanted Modernist buildings. Our post-industrial world gives a little more chance to consider environmental issues, and once again, craft, longevity, history, culture and beauty are at the forefront of the public's priorities. This is the time to relearn the skills and reasoning behind real architecture, classical architecture, and to teach it in schools. It is vital for the survival of the architects' profession that it understands the priorities of the British public and stops sneering at it.

CHRIS PHILLIPS  
London SE10

Sir: Presumably, Robin Butterell is referring to the pseudo half-timbered cottage, constructed by sticking some black-painted softwood on to an inner skin of breeze blocks.

It is necessary to distinguish between these, new timber-framed houses built according to traditional methods, and genuinely old timber-framed buildings. The best way to preserve the latter is for people to continue living in them.

All who do, or aspire to live in and preserve any old building, would be well advised to join the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. They will provide a delightful education in how to treat the building sensitively and repair it with the proper materials.

C G NOEL  
Ledbury, Herefordshire

## Herbal boom

Sir: The article "More control sought on herbal cures" (23 March) suggests that stricter controls on herbal medicines should be imposed because of the "dangers of side effects".

This is unconvincing, as the accompanying table of "five popular herbal remedies" demonstrated - side effects are, in fact, very rare, very slight or non-existent. Any attempt to draw up a list of equally benign pharmaceutical drugs would be doomed to failure.

The real issue is as old as the free market itself, and concerns the sale of over-the-counter herbal remedies that make over-inflated claims for products that may be of poor quality and purity, and lack proper labelling. Safety is not the main issue. Ripping people off is. With the rise in interest in herbal medicine, unscrupulous producers are trying to cash in on the boom.

Legislation, if enacted clumsily, may throw out the baby with the bath water, and prevent responsible medical herbalists from practising. If this happens there is a risk that herbal medicines would become the sole domain of the worst profiteer of them all - the pharmaceutical companies.

K WATSON  
Purtonmouth

## Rough justice

Sir: John Walsh is correct when he tells us that golf is "popular with all socio-economic classes" (John Walsh on Monday, 29 March). That working-class Cockney wit, raconteur, musician and author Derek Bristow once revealed to me its further appeal: "The worse you are the more goes you get."

ROBERT VINCENT  
Andover, Hampshire

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Ballet School No 2: the Davies School of Ballet is a family affair; Felicity teaches while her aunt accompanies the dancers on the piano. Ann Doherty

# "This is the captain. You're about to land. I'm already home."

Very Unusual Jobs Indeed  
No 39 in the series: an airline pilot who works from home!

"I USED to read all those articles about the trend towards working at home, and I used to feel sorry for all those guys. Here was I, an airline pilot, trotting round the globe, seeing exotic places, and there were these people stuck in their houses and never getting out. I never dreamt that one day it would be me. And it's the best thing that ever happened to me."

Digby Stratford is an experienced pilot to whom the worst thing in the world happened. He became afraid of flying.

"It all started when I had a narrow miss coming in to Heathrow - some Canadian plane which flew past about 400ft away.

"If you're driving and you avoid

a car by 400ft, it's called being on the far side of a big car park, but if you miss a plane by 400ft, it's called being lucky to be alive."

"I started thinking about accident rates and life expectancy and things, and before I knew where I was, I had acquired a fear of flying and was starting to sweat and twitch and have little black-outs. That's no condition to fly in."

"Well, I was the most experienced pilot the airline had, and they didn't want to lose me. But there was no way I was going to go up in a plane again. I could have gone into training, I suppose, and taken over the pilot-training programme. But before it came to that I suggested, half in joke, half in despair, that instruments were so sophisticated these days. I could always fly a plane from the ground - and

the chief computer boffin said it was well within the bounds of possibility! "And he was right. Most flying these days is done on instrument. The captain doesn't have to do more than a bit of landing, take-off and correction. I have known flights on which the most strenuous thing I have done was make the announcements to the passengers. So it made sense to rig up some controls and instruments at home, and see if it worked. And it does."

"In my study at home I now have a mock-up of a cockpit installed. I have satellite links to the flight I am flying, and I can pick up immediately any alteration to speed, wind speed, temperature, fuel consumption, whatever. I can relay instructions back to the cockpit, without even bothering the others on the flight deck."

So there is someone in the cockpit, is there? "Oh yes, the other officers are



MILES KINGTON  
It might be that unmanned flights are the way forward, with me being the pioneer

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## Nato cannot delay sending in troops to protect Kosovo

IN LESS than a week, the war in Yugoslavia has escalated beyond Nato's initial aims. The evidence that women and children - and worryingly few men - are fleeing from Kosovo to Albania proves that the war has become a potentially genocidal conflict.

The responsibility for this falls on Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia. He has exploited Allied air attacks to step up his policy of eviction and slaughter.

It is easy to blame Nato for this. But Mr Milosevic's campaign of terror was hotting up while negotiations were still under way with the Allies and the Kosovo Liberation Army, and there is evidence that the assault on the Kosovo Albanians began when the international observers were pulled out, before the war started.

After the recent murder of moderates, including Fehmi Agani, the main adviser to Ibrahim Rugova, the Kosovar Albanians' voice of peace, Nato members must accept that Mr Milosevic has decided to keep Kosovo as part of Serbia - without its Albanian-speaking majority.

In these circumstances, Nato's policy must move beyond attempting to force Mr Milosevic to implement the Rambouillet terms. Indeed, these are already moribund. From punishing Serbian aggression in Kosovo, Nato must now act to prevent it.

This could be accomplished in two stages. First, Nato must change tactics. As well as diminishing the Serbian army's potential to fight, Nato must, in particular, stop the fighting in Kosovo. Nato will have to concentrate its force on the Serbian infantry, tanks and armoured personnel vehicles in the province. High-altitude hit-and-run bombing missions will have to be supplemented by lower-altitude attacks on infantry and vehicles. The Afghan war showed how vulnerable aircraft are at such heights. Inevitably, therefore, Nato and Western public opinion must be prepared for the sight of body bags.

Second, Nato will need to decide how this campaign is to end. It has already gone on long enough without a focused picture of the *status quo post bellum*. Nato should send in ground troops to establish a protectorate over Kosovo. This would not only defend the lives of the province's Albanian-speaking majority but also secure the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, so as to prevent the spread of the conflict into neighbouring states. There is already a partial precedent for this step in the shape of Nato's presence in Bosnia.

Establishing a protectorate is a painful decision for which there is little political consensus. So far, only Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats have given it their backing. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, announced in the House of Commons last week that British soldiers would move into Kosovo only with the consent of both Serbs and

ethnic Albanians. Yesterday, in a Commons exchange with Mr Ashdown, Mr Blair moved towards this position, pointedly refusing to rule out the idea of a protectorate.

Establishing a protectorate will entail casualties, and not a little cost. Nonetheless, there is no other way, short of an invasion of Yugoslavia, that Nato can prevent the pogroms that occurred in Bosnia.

A protectorate would also ease the pressure on Mediterranean Nato states, including Italy and Greece. Italy's support for Nato is becoming strained with the arrival of boat-loads of refugees on its shores. The prospect of holiday resorts full of Kosovar refugees, and beaches filled with anti-aircraft batteries, is nightmarish for both the country's politicians and its tourist industry.

Nato must not dither, but resolve this crisis quickly - not least to prevent civilian casualties in Serbia proper. Mr Milosevic is leading all the citizens of Yugoslavia into a dark and frightening place; for all of their sakes Nato must swiftly bring the war to a stable conclusion.

## A chance to improve the countryside for all

SOMETIMES PEOPLE cannot resist a cliché. Ramblers' groups have described the Government's decision yesterday to appoint Ewen Cameron as chairman of the new Countryside Agency as like "putting an alcoholic in charge of a pub". Surely, as Mr Cameron was president of the Country Landowners Association, it is more a case of gamekeeper turned poacher.

Ramblers are worried that Mr Cameron is being appointed to water down the Government's promise of a right to roam. The evidence for this accusation is his background in leading efforts to stymie ramblers' access to the land. He is credited with inventing the idea of "voluntary access", which would have made it hard for walkers to go any distance, while maintaining a semblance of openness.

But Mr Cameron has stated that the presumption in favour of access "must be the better route". To this end the Agency is embarking on an extensive mapping of the countryside to define what the right to roam really means.

Mr Cameron has talked sensibly and persuasively about his new role. He sees the Countryside Agency as working on behalf of those who work in the country and those who own it, as well as those who, from time to time, visit it.

The Government has created the Countryside Agency by amalgamating the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Commission. By doing so, it brings together people and landscape, which were previously apart, for the purposes of developing a plan to maintain and improve the countryside for the benefit of all.

A host of countryside issues need urgent attention. Housing heads the agenda. Young people find it increasingly difficult to afford to live in the country. Villages will die without their presence, and towns might not find an empty countryside quite as picturesque as our present one.

## While the rich get richer, it's still the poor that get the blame

TODAY'S COLUMN is about crystal therapy. I had intended to write about poverty in Britain, but when I went down to the local bookshop I couldn't find anything to help me except a couple of anecdotal journeys into The English Heart of Darkness (you know, hookers, crack and manslaughter). Whereas there was a wealth of material - shelves of it - on how to improve your chakras, colour your auras and transcend your ills. Perhaps if that 40 per cent of British people now defined by the Treasury as being on or below the poverty line were to get on down to their bookshops and pick up a few tips, they would be happier, if not necessarily any richer. It works in the Orient, doesn't it?

My bookshop is not run by callous people who care nothing about the poor. On the contrary. And despite the fact that one of the men has a pony-tail, neither is it a New Age coven. Its shelves merely reflect what publishers publish, and what a very diverse set of customers will buy. In fact, I myself have blown nearly £150 there in the past three weeks. Which happens to be £11 more than a family of four living on half of average earnings has available to spend in a week, once housing costs have been paid. The same amount - £120 - that pays for their food, clothes, entertainment, transport and - I dare say - fags, would get my lot a weekend in Center Parcs, a day at Disneyland Paris, or (a special treat) dinner for two at The Ivy.

Part of the problem here may be that poverty isn't what it used to be. Forget rat-infested rookeries; our

poor fellow citizens have indoor plumbing, satellite TV and shoes. For the "if you haven't got cholera, then you're not poor" school of social justice, this definition of poverty as being relative is most offensive. How can you be said to be poor if you have all you need to stay alive, and then a bit?

Add to that the fact that many of us see poverty as being either intractable or, sadly, the consequence of moral or genetic weakness. Oh, don't deny it. Only academics can go through life without encountering such opinions in the pub or round the table. You tune into some appalling TV show, and discover the tale of Nicky or Sheila, who is 25, looks 55, and has five scrawny, shaven-headed kids by five different fathers. Then your chest bursts open and out pops your hideous, hidden, internal eugenicist, shouting "hysterectomy!"

And yet, for all the war stuff, if there's been one subject this Government has been banging on about this spring, it's been poverty. A few weeks ago old Tony was pledging himself to end child poverty inside 25 years, and yesterday Gordon Brown made action to eradicate poverty one of the central planks of the Government's mid-term platform.

So you can't help wondering whether they may not really mean it. But if they do, as James Naughtie twice asked the Chancellor yesterday, then why are they not advocating wholesale redistribution from the rich to the poor (presumably via the taxation system)? If poverty is relative, then inequality is as much the problem as is want. Therefore, the de-

fault equation suggests, we should take from the haves and give to the have-nots.

Mrs Thatcher, of course, thought that inequality *per se* was good. "Opportunity," she said in 1975, "means nothing unless it includes the right to be unequal. Let our children grow tall and let some grow taller than others if they have it in them to do so." (Incidentally that sentence is so much less attractive when reversed, as in "let our children grow tall, but let lots of them grow much smaller than the others, if they can't keep up.") Increased wealth - the consequence of free-market reform and low taxation - would trickle down to the poorest in the form of jobs. And even if inequality of outcome grew, the overall consequence would be benign.

In fact, the very poorest, while be-

coming no poorer in absolute terms, became no richer either. In relative terms, however, they went off the edge of the board, and there were many more of them. And the reason why it matters is that - as yesterday's report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows - rank inequality of outcome pisses people off, demotivates them, criminalises them and, worst of all, disadvantages their children. These kids look around them and see a world in which they cannot hope to compete. Many of them give up.

The Rowntree report sees two major factors behind this development. The first is unemployment and the second (which I feel the report's authors try to play down) is lone parenthood. The second can obviously be related to the first. And in both cases access to jobs is the key problem. Well, the Government is doing a whole lot about that, and it claims some success for its New Deal measures.

But the main way in which children are going to break out of the inherited straitjacket of poverty is through education. And here, last week's figures about the scale of illiteracy and innumeracy in Britain should terrify us. One-quarter of Britons (and you wonder how closely these people correlate with those living in poverty) are functionally illiterate or innumerate. (This is four times the proportion of illiterates as in Sweden, so you can imagine, therefore, how impressed I was the other week to receive a pamphlet from the Social Market Foundation entitled "The Rise and Fall of the Swedish Model".)

And yet, when the Government

introduces a literacy hour in British schools, you can't make yourself heard for the din of middle-class columnists talking about how their kids don't need it! Nevertheless, it is possible to imagine a situation in which everyone would have jobs, everyone was better educated, and yet there was still massive inequality.

As Anthony Giddens has pointed out, unbridled meritocracies can create huge differences in outcome between people whose talents are themselves only marginally different. These great gaps then become chasms of advantage too large for the next generations to bridge.

We could use much more central control to equalise wages, or we could tax much more heavily those who earn a lot. But that's largely academic. The consequence of too heavy-handed an approach would be a flight of talent and an epidemic of tax evasion. The minimum wage is probably as much central pay control as anyone wants. And any progressive social strategy will fail if it alienates middle-class opinion too much. It's sad, but there it is.

We might try a bit harder to ensure that advantage and disadvantage were not hereditary. This could mean taxing private schools and making them less attractive as opposed to state schools, freezing or abolishing the tax-free inheritance threshold (why are rich kids any less prone to dependency than poor ones?), and doing all that we can to persuade teenage girls to wait a while before having that baby.

And if that fails, there's always the crystals.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I always think it's better to be cynical than gullible."  
Marcelle d'Argy Smith,  
former 'Cosmopolitan' editor, Pro-Euro Tory candidate

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will shrink from the service of their country."  
Thomas Paine  
British writer and philosopher

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## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The Irish press considers the prospects for the Belfast agreement as Easter approaches

can be overcome. As Good Friday approaches we place our faith, trust and prayers in the hands of our elected leaders to find a way through the current impasse. We cannot go back to

the misery and relentless violence of the past.  
Irish News

THE IRA and Sinn Féin are far from blameless in this sorry

state of affairs. Their insistence on sticking to the letter of the agreement rather than recognising their broader obligations under it has helped fuel unionist suspicions about their long term aims. Unionists, of course, have not exactly been helpful. Indeed, David Trimble's intransigence on the issue has turned it into the major obstacle to progress that the peace process has faced since it began over four years ago.  
Irish Echo

NO ONE knows if the pro-Agreement parties can reach a deal for the second year. Pressure-cooker politics will intensify when Blair and Bertie Abern arrive. Ulster Unionists have made clear they will table a motion at the Assembly to exclude Sinn Féin if decommissioning has not begun. Dr Mowlam insisted that parties would have to face up to trying to find a way forward and insisted there is no plan "B".  
Belfast Telegraph

WHAT HAPPENS this week will be effectively the test of whether the "Republican family" is now truly committed to peaceful methods or if what we have seen so far has been nothing more than a tactical switch to "unarmed struggle". Those who are committed to purely democratic methods have given everything that is within their gift to the various paramilitaries who have declared that they too want to participate. The privilege of demo-

cratically elected office while a private, armed force operates on the streets cannot be ceded. It will be an instructive week.  
Irish Times

THE MERCHANTS of death are still with us. They are standing in the wings, waiting for failure. No one is in any doubt as to the enormity of the task ahead of our political leaders. We have a long way to go before fear, suspicion and mistrust between the two communities



## PANDORA

POOR CHRISTOPHER Sylvester. The pasty-faced *Express* diarist who writes under the ill-starred pseudonym Brutus has been reduced to lifting items from this column to fill his own. Pandora's a charitable type, but yesterday the hapless chump managed to run a story that appeared here last Thursday (Max Hastings mishearing "venison" for "Benetton"). Somehow Brutus still managed to pepper Pandora's five-day-old yarn with inaccurate misquotations. Even *The Express's* proprietor, Clive Hollick, didn't bother to deny this week that Sylvester's column is "snide and fanciful". Perhaps it's invidious to blame Sylvester, a quondam night-club crooner, since the pressure's obviously telling on other prisoners of the luckless Lubyanka. As *The Express's* circulation plunges full speed ahead, down through the magic million barrier, trade press reports indicate advertisers are starting to desert in droves.

SMASH THAT stereotype - Kwis are the least sexy people on the planet, according to a new survey. When asked their idea of a perfect evening only 1 in 40 New Zealanders picked sex. It came in behind dining out (28.5 per cent), a gig (13 per cent) gambling (10 per cent) and getting a good night's sleep (9 per cent). Only 1 per cent of Kwis under 30 rated sex as their favourite pm pursuit.

MIND THE generation gap. In response to Roger Chapman (and other eagle-eyed readers who e-mailed Pandora that the 21st century starts on 1 January 2001) here are 10 things you may not know about those who will be 21 in 2001, courtesy of Metin Alsancak, 19. They've never known life without AIDS; they don't know Michael Jackson used to be black and Des O'Connor used to be white. Homer's not an author but the father figure in *The Simpsons*. They've never been intellectually tested at 16 years of age. They know nothing about the Falklands war. They expect their shoes to feature air bubbles. They have been mesmerised by mesmerising amounts of advertising. There's always been a hole in the ozone layer. They grew up on He-Man, Predator and Terminator - not *The Matrix*.

Roundabout, *The Clangers* and *Bagpuss*. They've never seen an episode of ITV's *Crossroads*.

SO GERI Halliwell (pictured) has reportedly snared £300,000 to write a book. Enquiring minds want to know: what was the last book she read? Pandora has a suggestion... *Pandora*. By Anne Rice. Arrow publishes the \$4.99 Vampire paperback next month. But does the Tidian-tressed temptress share Pandora's taste for blood?

NORMAN LAMONT'S steadfast support for Pinochet noir runs to 72 written parliamentary questions. Their cost to taxpayers is £2,380. That buys three round-trips to Santiago. Or 33 flights to Madrid - one way.

CAN THIS be true? Johnny Depp, fresh from his extensive absinthe-sampling session with Dr Hunter S Thompson, has been signed up to advertise the mind-bending liquor on these shores.

THE RACE to the Burt of Sack continues - now it's the Beat Generation icon Lawrence Ferlinghetti who's weighing in with a few tips. The founder of the legendary City Lights imprint says that the laureateship selection process is "congealed". Ferlinghetti, one of a highly select pool of poets whose volumes have sold more than a million copies (*A Coney Island of the Mind*), says friends of his recently saw Seamus Heaney reading at Berkeley University. "They fell asleep," Ferlinghetti, 73, pauses before suggesting the "younger" poets Adrian Mitchell and Tom Pickard, then corrects himself "I guess they're not that young any more." Finally he plumps for Bay-area-based, English-born Thom Gunn. Pandora thinks we could do worse - a lot worse.

WINNER OF Pandora's saucer of milk this lap is James Naughton, the off-Broadway lyricist whose show *Street of Dreams* features this parody of Cole Porter's "You're the Top": "You're the pits/ You're a wild salad/ You're the pits/ A Lloyd Webber ballad." Miao!

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

## Finding salvation through publication



TERENCE BLACKER

Everyone has a book in them but almost always it's a book of interest only to its author

THERE WAS something unbearably poignant about the news that the comedian Rod Hull had taken to writing novels in his later years. Within days of the zany, madcap emu-toter falling off a roof to his death, his widow had announced to the press that the most fitting memorial the world could offer her former husband was to make his fiction available in bookshops.

So, even in death, Rod was in touch with the zeitgeist. Years ago, he enacted a national fantasy by wrestling Michael Parkinson to the floor in front of the camera, scuffing his suit and ruffling his normally immaculate hair while the great Yorkshireman, clearly infuriated, had to pretend to be amused at his own humiliation. Now Rod Hull, with the help of his widow, has expressed the dream of the moment: salvation through publication.

Harmless enough, you might think. In this last Easter week of the second millennium, there's a powerful yearning for a faith that will give deeper meaning, a spiritual dimension, to our humdrum, everyday lives. The more lame-brained turn to the National Lottery or to one of

the gambling and share-dealing opportunities provided by the Internet. Others find solace in one or several of the endless New Age idiocies being peddled in astrology columns, on the heal-your-life shelves of bookshops or on Russell Grant's dial-a-psychic phone-in on Talk Radio. An enviable few are able to cling to the original Easter message, bravely choosing to ignore the fact that on

Sunday they could find themselves sharing a pew with Glenn Hoddle, Sir Cliff Richard, Rowan Atkinson and Ann Widdecombe.

But none of these versions of paradise can quite compete with salvation through publication. It provides the distant possibility of a jackpot of royalties, a ticket in the great celebrity raffle. It allows you to discover and exhibit the deeper, nobler, more sensitive aspects of your character without paying a therapist. In the case of Rod Hull it could even provide a sort of afterlife, in the local WH Smith.

For some reason, this spiritual course particularly appeals to comedians, who long to reveal in fiction all the conflicts, confusions and heartaches they are obliged to conceal from their public. Ernie Wise's best (and only) joke tapped into the showbiz fantasy of a comic whose real and undiscovered talent lay in the serious plays that he wrote. The genius Les Dawson would regularly pester the publishers of his comedy books to consider his more important work as a novelist. Since then, a tradition of fiction-struck comic actors has become well-

established, with Hugh Laurie, Michael Palin, Adrian Edmondson, Richard E. Grant, Arabella Weir and Robert Newman all trying their hand. Some of them (Ardal O'Hanlon, David Baddiel, Nigel Planer) are good writers, but few tend to persevere beyond that one harsh experience of the novelist's life.

The problem occurs when this desire to resolve inner unhappiness and domestic mess infects people who do not have an acting career to which they can return. At literary festivals, would-be writers in search of tips now outnumber mere readers of books. Anyone who teaches a creative writing course quickly discovers that what most people want to express in print is not a story, nor an interpretation of the world in which they find themselves, but a thrilling, egocentric and, above all, therapeutic expiation of that universal theme of the moment - me, me, me.

Yet, in spite of the success of the many exhibitionistic memoirs in which childhood, marriage or general unhappiness provides succulent titbits for a prurient readership, raw therapy in book form, particularly in

fiction, is rarely worth reading; the very attitude that is useful in life - the desire to be loved - is disastrous when it comes to fiction, as the work of most actors and politicians invariably proves.

Real novelists quarry their lives all right, but they are not interested in neat psychological resolutions and, if they are any good, they present themselves in a way which, in a world run by spin doctors, can be discomfiting. The very columnists and critics who express moral outrage at the views of, to take recent examples, Philip Roth, VS Naipaul, John Updike, Jeanette Winterson or Martin Amis, are merely confirming that their fiction is doing its job.

Of course, everyone has a book in them - not two, just one - but, almost always it's a book of interest only to its author. There may even be a case for using lottery money to produce a vast library of memoirs and therapy-fiction (prior run: five copies), which will cure people of the need to write - as well as providing historians with an archive of national frustration and dissatisfaction.

It could be called the Rod Hull Collection.

## Why do politicians never resign for the right reasons?



ANNE MCELVOY

I too have ended up in what is invariably called a seedy sauna, which offered kinky services

I FEEL a particular sympathy for Joe Ashton, the Labour MP who has decided not to stand for the next Parliament after being caught in a massage parlour. For I too have ended up in what is invariably called a Seedy Sauna offering kinky services, and you may or may not choose to believe the explanation.

When people are stationed in Moscow, the traditional steam bath and massage are standard treats for the pallid community of foreigners throughout the long winter months. When a Russian contact heard that my fiancé was arriving for the weekend, he offered us the gift of a day in a sauna frequented by the cream of the Russian government. Ooh, we thought, that will be nice: a back rub, a circulation-enhancing beating with birch twigs and the mere possibility of the Interior Minister being in the very next cubicle.

It did not go like that. We should have been warned by the organic pop music and the Polish pornographic posters featuring maidens with their swimming costumes on backwards. Anatoly, the masseur, was puzzled by our insistence on keeping towels with us and kept asking pitiously whether we needed anything else, or should he bring in another woman or a friend? Eventually, my fiancé uttered the heroic British understatement: "Er, something's not right here," and we made our excuses and left, followed by hard stares and mutterings about time-wasters.

Mr Ashton does not appear to have been so naive. But there was nothing illegal in his attending the parlour; he did not pay for sex and nor was the option put to him. The poor man hadn't even got into his bubble bath when the police arrived. He had no need to offer Tony Blair his resignation.

It may raise a snigger to learn

that the sort of ageing Labour MP whose earthly pleasures we imagine to be two pints of bitter and a packet of pork scratchings turns out to relish body-to-body friction with a sprightly Thai, but so what? Sexy massages are not outside the law. If anyone got over-excited it would appear to be the police, who battered down the doors with sledgehammers to find out what value Mr Ashton was getting for his money.

Peculiarity is not the same as transgression. Most of us, at some time, do things which would look very odd to other people. To their credit, Labour officials have decided not to get steamed up about Mr Ashton's sauna, although they might not have been so tolerant had he not offered to stand down after the next election anyway.

On more serious resigning matters though, they seem to be in some confusion. Mohammed Sarwar was suspended on suspicion of buying votes in Glasgow, while Fiona Jones in Newark was backed by the party. This turned out to be exactly the wrong way round: Mrs Jones has

been found guilty in court of overspending in her election campaign in Newark and unfit for office, while Mr Sarwar, who was hung out to dry by the party managers, was last week cleared of wrongdoing.

When exactly MPs should resign is an inexact science in which their general standing matters more than what they have done. In November 1947 Hugh Dalton stood down as chancellor because of a budget leak to the *London Evening Star*. But the same year, another senior cabinet minister, AV Alexander, had committed a major indiscretion by letting slip that the chancellor would make a speech on suspending the pound's convertibility. Alexander survived; Dalton, by this stage dispensable to a government seeking a fresh start, did not.

The exact grounds for Peter Mandelson's resignation were unclear - was it taking Geoffrey Robinson's home loan? Or negligence in declaring it when Mr Mandelson became trade minister and the DTI was looking into Mr Robinson's affairs? Or the failure to declare the loan on his mortgage form? The real answer is: none of the above. Mr Mandelson resigned because he was shrewd enough about modern politics to know that the appearance of what he had done discredited the Government and that he would have a better chance of reviving a senior political career some day if he fell on his sword at Christmas.

In their evasions, double-dealings and infidelities, politicians are like the rest of us, only more so. It is unreasonable to expect them to uphold different standards to those which apply in the rest of society, and the public is far more tolerant of foibles than the press or the prurient political establishment. Kenneth Starr learnt this the hard way when the nation failed to recoil in horror over Bill



Joe Ashton MP: no need to resign

Sean Dempsey/PA

Clinton's fumble with Monica, but recoiled in horror at Mr Starr.

John Major made the cardinal mistake of expecting his Tories to be better behaved than the population at large. Mr Blair, watching the comedy of errors of David Mellor, Tim Yeo and finally, with impeccable pre-election timing, Piers Merchant, determined that when he was in charge, sex wouldn't count as grounds for going. Robin Cook was a beneficiary. But Ron Davies's adventures on Clapham Common showed how one deception so often entails another, so that by the end it was difficult to tell whether it was Davies's lying or his alleged soliciting that was deemed to be the resigning matter.

If there is a risk in Blairite sexual liberalism, it is that it inclines to make judgments based on palatability rather than consistency. Heterosexual adultery is an abyss into which many happily married people gaze now and then, whether or not they leap. It is easy to tolerate failures in others with which we empathise; far easier to cast the first

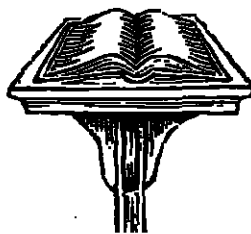
stone at someone whose foibles seem weird to the mainstream.

A day after Mr Ashton's headlines it was revealed that Pauline Green, the leader of the socialist group in the European Parliament, often has her Brussels chauffeur drive from Brussels to London, while she flies, and boards him in hotels so that she can be driven around in Britain by him when on business. This is the sort of minor lunacy that seems normal to people who have had their standards warped by exposure to so much extravagance that they no longer notice their own.

Naturally, it did not strike her as an excessive perk. What would? Justifying the unjustifiable is an art in which she has some practice. She refused to back a no-confidence motion in the Commission when the scale of fraud and cronyism in Brussels was exposed, only to join the calls for its resignation when it was clear that Jacques Santer and his clique were doomed.

The trouble with resignations is that they so rarely happen for the right reasons.

## French culture is a worldwide asset



PODIUM

JEAN CHRETIEN  
From a speech by the  
Prime Minister of  
Canada to mark La  
Journée Internationale  
de la Francophonie

I AM pleased to be with you once again to celebrate La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie.

This day is first and foremost an opportunity to take pride in celebrating one of the fundamental elements of our national identity: the French language and culture.

We have 7 million French Canadians in Canada, and hundreds of thousands of other Canadians who are learning French so that they can play a full part in the francophone of our country.

Today is, therefore, an excellent opportunity to celebrate the wealth and diversity of Canada's francophone communities, communities that have retained their special character through their history, and the manner in which they have chosen to live and flourish in different environments and circumstances.

So today I believe that we should give a special thought to the men and women who have worked hard to build Canada's French-language communities.

We have ensured that the promotion of the French language, which is a fundamental element of Canada's identity, is no longer the responsibility of a single department but, rather, a responsibility shared by all federal departments.

In the cultural field, we have to continue to build on our very numerous successes.

Over the years Canada has established institutions that have made a major contribution to the promotion of francophone culture, and the influence of that culture here and throughout the world. We have only to think of Radio-Canada or the Canada Council and organisations such as Telefilm Canada and the National Film Board.

This shows what an asset to francophonie is to Canada. And its development is opening up an ever-expanding window on the world for Canadians. During this period of globalisation, a time when borders are opening, Canadian francophonie is a major strength for our country, linking us to the francophonie throughout the world.

What is more, Canada was one of the first to associate itself with the international francophonie. In 1970 we were a

founding member of the Cultural and Technical Co-operation Agency. We have since continued to play a primary role in the organisation.

More recently, we supported efforts to give the international francophonie a wider political mandate. This mandate is very much in line with Canada's concerns, particularly at a time when we have a seat on the UN Security Council.

The extended mandate focuses on promoting peace by preventing and resolving conflicts, promoting human rights and supporting the process of democratisation. This component of the activities pursued by the international francophonie is a useful and relevant one.

The organisation has, so far, led nine observation missions, including one joint mission with the United Nations. Canada is proud of its participation in these initiatives, which enable us to continue to advance our priorities on the international scene.

Our membership in this network of 52 countries and governments that share the French language also brings other benefits.

In September the city of Moncton, New Brunswick will have the privilege of hosting the Sommet de la Francophonie. The agenda for the summit will be very diverse. We will have an opportunity to discuss issues relating to youth, new technologies, culture, education and the economy.

We hope that the summit will enable us to promote a number of issues that affect not

only Canadians but people throughout the world. Thus, we want to work with our Summit partners to find ways to promote and ensure the safety of young people in countries wracked by armed conflict. Canada's objective is to ensure that these youths can grow up in an environment that meets their needs and fosters their development.

We also wish to pursue our efforts to promote cultural diversity. These efforts are starting to bear fruit. And the member countries of the francophonie contributed to this success.

The challenge facing the heads of state meeting in Moncton will be therefore to reaffirm their determination to become involved in issues that go beyond the geographical boundaries of the francophonie and which affect the international community as a whole.

With a few months to go before the summit, we are celebrating today the last Journée Internationale de la Francophonie before the new millennium. I wish you all an excellent Journée Internationale de la Francophonie.

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# Lies, deceit and betrayal



**ROBERT FISK**  
*We cry for the Kosovo Albanians; perhaps we even love them. But we will not die for them*

ONCE UPON a time – last week, in fact – we went to war to save the Kosovo Albanians. After months of negotiating and a thousand broken promises, Nato's patience was exhausted. It was time to teach the Serbs a lesson and – dare we suggest it – revenge ourselves on Slobodan Milosevic, not just for Kosovo, but for the years of Western humiliation in Bosnia. But it was for the Kosovars, the 90-per-cent Muslim population of Serbia's Kosovo province, that we would draw the sword.

And our war is turning into disaster. The moment Nato's bombs and missiles began to fall, the Serbs struck ruthlessly against the Albanians of Kosovo.

"They are being helped by Nato and Nato is our enemy and now the Albanians are calling us air strikes," a young Serb official snapped angrily at me on Monday. The separatist Kosovars – from being merely recalcitrant or, at worst, "terrorists" – have now become fifth columnists. And fifth columns are always destroyed by occupying armies.

Thus has come about what Nato now admits to be the greatest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. And already we are being deceitful to both the victims and the aggressors.

Within two days of the first air strikes – when it became clear that the Serbs were "cleansing" their way through Kosovo; when the first 20,000 refugees washed up on the frontiers of Macedonia and Albania – President Clinton, the architect (along with Richard Holbrooke) of this particular adventure, made an astonishing statement. He said that the bloodshed would have been "even worse" if Nato had not intervened. And he assured the American people that US troops would only be sent into Kosovo in a peace-keeping role.

How happy President Milosevic must have been to hear that. Already Clinton was making excuses for Nato's air raids – and then promising that ground troops would never be sent to fight Serbian forces in Kosovo.

So Milosevic's army pressed on eagerly. And when the next flood of Kosovars staggered into Macedonia with their stories of summary execu-



Ethnic Albanian refugees walk towards the northern Albanian town of Kukës after being forced by Serb forces to leave their homes in Kosovo

Santiago Lyon/AP

cutions and house-burning, we were told yet again that things would have been worse without the air raids. Once Nato admitted that 500,000 Kosovars had been displaced, this lie was mercifully forgotten. Instead, the air raids would be increased, the rules of engagement broadened, in order to end Serbia's "scorching" of Kosovo's earth. The fruits of war had now become the reason for its enlargement.

A terrible formula has now emerged, one that the Kosovo Albanian leadership is only beginning to understand. We in the West cared so much for their people's suffering that we went to war to end their grief and bring them peace. But we would not risk the life of a single soldier to do this.

The Kaiser's policy – that the Balkans were not worth the life of a single Prussian grenadier – has been adopted to the letter by Nato. Even as distraught women were entering Skopje with tales of the execution of intellectuals in Pristina, a British officer vouchsafed the opinion in Macedonia that "we are here simply to implement a peace agreement and that's what we will do, if [sic] and when we get the chance."

So, more comfort for President

Milosevic. However reasonable this sounds in Washington and London, the message for the Serbs is clear: Nato – supposedly the iron shield of Western democracy in the event of a Soviet invasion of Western Europe – cannot even defeat Serbia. The men who were trained to defend the Fulda Gap against Moscow's legions are going to sit it out in the hills of Macedonia – to act as peacekeepers "when they get the chance".

We cry for the Kosovo Albanians. Perhaps we even love them. But we will not die for them.

Instead, we seek more monsters to justify our continued war. George Robertson, our beloved Defence Secretary, has reintroduced the world to the arch-villain Arkian, ethnic cleanser "par excellence" in Bosnia.

Indeed, Arkian is an indicted war criminal. Mr Robertson spent some time dwelling upon the deeds of this "outrageous thug". But the fact is that Arkian's cruelty was made manifest in Bosnia, not in Kosovo. There is no evidence – so far – that his "Tigers" are murdering Albanians in Kosovo.

President Clinton told us, too, that if we didn't continue the war

against Serbia, then we would see repeated "what happened in Bosnia".

The West has every reason to feel humiliated by its performance in the face of evil in Bosnia. And to blame Mr Milosevic as one of those who shamed us – and let's not muddy the waters by remembering the ruthless Franjo Tudjman's "cleansing" of 170,000 Serbs from Krajina – is fair enough. But to go to war to avenge ourselves for the Bosnian war was folly. And it is becoming ever more clear that this is partly what Nato's first-ever conflict is about. It is about getting our own back.

Meanwhile, we are enduring the usual half-truths. Before America bombed Libya in 1986 and Iraq in 1991, Washington insisted that it had no argument with the "Libyan/Iraqi people". President Clinton said the same after he bombed Afghanistan and Sudan last year.

And sure enough, just three days ago, the Americans – joined this time by the British – repeated the same old lament. We had nothing against the Serbian people. It was just "Milosevic's murder machine" that we hated. But, again, our hatred was not enough to die for.

Of course, Nato itself cannot be

humiliated on the eve of its 50th birthday. This was one of the *raison d'être* of this war at the weekend. Presumably, we would have been less keen to bomb Serbia if it were the 49th birthday or the 51st birthday...

There is, needless to say, one very clear way that Nato could show its teeth – by arresting two Serb warlords even more infamous than Arkian: General Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic.

How strange that Mr Robertson didn't mention those two indicted war criminals last week. Why didn't he? Because he forgot? Or because Mladic and Karadzic happen to reside in Bosnia, in a district controlled by the very Nato troops whose reputation must be defended by going to war with Serbia?

Why doesn't Mr Robertson order their immediate arrest? Is it because such arrests might be resisted, and Nato lives lost? In the next few days, two possible scenarios are likely to present themselves to President Clinton and Tony Blair (and also, I suppose, to Mr Cook).

One will be to grit their teeth and go for the kind of haven created for the Kurds in northern Iraq in 1991.

The other is to pay a humble visit to the Secretary General of that poor old donkey, the United Nations.

The first would be costly – Serbia has promised to fight an invader, not sink away as Iraq did after the Gulf conflict. If Nato troops were to get involved in a fire-fight in Kosovo, it would betray every promise that Clinton made to the Americans. Bodies would probably come home in coffins. But the promise to the Kosovo Albanians would have been honoured.

The second would be an experience deeply humbling to all the arm-chair warriors who have been preaching the morality of war to us over the past few days.

Yes, of course, President Milosevic may capitulate. Or he may be overthrown. But if he does not give up, Nato commanders may have to decide whether to put their soldiers' lives on the line for the policies of their governments, or hand the cause of peace in Europe to the UN.

Sane men would probably go for the UN option. Meanwhile, the Kosovo Albanians are the ones who have chiefly been doing the dying over the past week. No doubt the survivors will thank us for our sympathy.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

TIM SOUTHWELL



The editor of 'Loaded' responds to Deborah Orr's article criticising men's magazines

DEBORAH ORR is 359 years old and is from another planet. She appears guilty of gross ignorance in accusing *Loaded* of publishing yards of "sexist jokes." It's an old trick but still popular among the so-called broadsheet literati. The trick is simple: take a contentious issue (ie "How women appearing in states of undress in magazines encourages evil men to perform hideous sex crimes on innocent women and children"), then make ill-informed swipes at *Loaded* to validate the article's existence.

We can hardly deny that we print pictures of beautiful women in sexy poses, but the suggestion that there is some kind of link between the existence of *Loaded* and a 10-year-old girl phoning Childline because she's pregnant, is preposterous.

Evil people do evil things to innocent people not because of something they've seen in a magazine but because their pathetic, Meccano-like brains have, for some reason of genetic malfunction, decided that it's time for them to do something bad to someone.

The assertion that *Loaded* is full of "sexist jokes" is utterly insulting not just to us at the magazine but also to our million readers. We're far more likely to fill the magazine with self-effacing jokes about men. The very notion that there are men out there who act boorishly and think it's cool to pinch a young lady's behind without her permission is as odious to us as it is to women.

The current issue of *Loaded* features brilliantly written articles on Don King, Russia's heroin problem, Robert Carlyle, treasure-hunting in the Guatemalan jungle and the Dice Man. Does that sound like a magazine obsessed with naked female flesh? Please read *Loaded*. Or, to put it in another way, get with it, Grandma.

## Pitiless portrayal of a President

IN THE days when the White House was graced by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a well-educated young American journalist was assigned to Washington. He asked the great Scots expert on American politics, DW Brogan, what he should read before covering the White House.

"Saint-Simon," said the great man without hesitation. "The 19th-century founder of French socialism?" asked the young journalist. "No," said Brogan, "the author of the memoirs of the court of Louis XIV."

The White House is a court. Small, cramped and crowded, it is the residence of an elected monarch and his family as well as the headquarters of a frenetic, yet strangely unstructured bureaucracy. George Stephanopoulos, one of President and Mrs Clinton's closest aides since the 1992 campaign,



has captured this aspect of the White House as brilliantly as any other memoir of the past 40 years.

Just as dukes, Jesuits and mistresses worked themselves into lathers of jealous insecurity about their status at Versailles, Stephanopoulos recalls how he agonised over a suspected coldness in the First Lady's greeting, or exclusion from a strategy meeting. No courtier banned from the royal presence in the ruelle behind his master's bed or refused the privilege

### TUESDAY BOOK

ALL TOO HUMAN:  
A POLITICAL EDUCATION  
BY GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS. HUTCHINSON. £17.99

of passing the royal periwig, suffered more than George, who was denied access to the Oval Office or a seat on Air Force One.

Almost equally strange is the abject deference of the White House aide, supposedly armed with the thunderbolts of the All-Powerful, to the barons of the media. Stephanopoulos muses penitentially for pages over whether he was right to talk as much as he did to Bob Woodward, once the hero of Watergate, now *The Washington Post's* specialist in "I was under the bed" reconstructions.

Most of Clinton's aides had no career ahead of them unless they could sell their services as political consultants or negotiate a transfer to television (Stephanopoulos's own solution). The impression he leaves is that they were understandably more deferential to any reporter from the *Post* or *The New York Times*, let alone to a network anchor or talk-show host, than to a mere senator or congressman.

Not that Stephanopoulos is a cynic or a careerist. The son of a Greek Orthodox priest and grandson of a Greek immigrant, he holds dear the Old Democrat faith. His characterisations, of Bill and Hillary Clinton, Al Gore and others, are subtle and nuanced. Only one portrait drips with venom and contempt: that of Dick Morris, the Republican pollster and operator who replaced him for a while in Clinton's good graces.

It is plain that, at least for Stephanopoulos and his friends, there was an ideological battle in the White



George Stephanopoulos taking questions

Jeff Christensen

House for Bill Clinton's political soul, between those who wanted him to cling to the good old Democratic liberal cause, and those who wanted him to position himself in the centre and how to what seemed – in 1994 and 1995 – the inexorable rise of conservative sentiment. It is not, in other words, that the gyrations and manoeuvres of the White House court are devoid of political content. Rather, that, playing his own hand almost in isolation from a Congress where power is increasingly gathering, a president has to be obsessed with "the numbers" – the rating he is given by the media. He trades his political portfolio in the market of Washington politics, and only the media pundits can say how much capital he has left or move his price upward.

Stephanopoulos's portrait of the Clintons is affectionate, but pitiless. As he says, no man is a hero to his valet. He is equally severe on himself. His political ideals, he hopes, are unchanged. But he acknowledges that they have had to take second place to the hectic scuffling of a bourse where success is measured in access to the president and recognition by the media. Small wonder that a decent,

highly intelligent man who sees his ideals weighed in the scales against tacky cynicism and self-interested scheming ends up in therapy.

What does George Stephanopoulos have to tell us about the defining tragedy of the Lewinsky affair? Not much. He admits to having been the recipient of a tentative pass from the world's most famous woman himself. Luckily for him, his secretary barred her way whenever Monica tried to tempt him with unsolicited cups of double-tall latte.

But it had fallen to George to handle the bimbo eruptions in Clinton's 1992 campaign. He had an uncomfortable feeling that, if he hadn't exactly been lied to, he had been used; and if he hadn't exactly lied to the reporters on Clinton's behalf, well, they had been used, too.

So, half-free from the silken chains of loyalty and affection after he left the White House, he spoke out courageously about what Clinton ought to say and do. Now that impeachment is over, he will have done himself no great good. He has the consolation that he has woven his own frustrations into a small, sad political classic.

GODFREY HODGSON

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THE BLUE CROSS

### TUESDAY POEM

POPPIES  
BY JUDY GAHAGAN

In the lower private garden hedged-off for the university pharmacists there is an inferno of big poppies

apparently out of control like arson; the light comes from below, orange eyes of their Lucifer and their wickedness.

The very air is full of sharp knives. Interrogation. The soft sift of judgement. Eye-level weeds with ball and spike.

The university pharmacists have gone leaving parched days, a conflagration, to the mirthless disillusioned gardener.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from 'Crossing No-Man's Land' by Judy Gahagan, published at £6.95 by Flambard Press, Stable Cottage, East Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DX



# Gerhard Herzberg

GERHARD HERZBERG was the pre-eminent molecular spectroscopist of his generation.

His career spanned the half-century following the revolution of physics through the advent of wave-mechanics quantum-theory in the 1920s, a development he witnessed directly during his formative years as a student. It was also a period that saw the essentially complete reduction of macroscopic physical chemistry, and hence in principle of the whole of chemistry, to microscopic chemical physics, for which wave-mechanics provides a particularly essential foundation. Much of the experimental basis of this reduction came through spectroscopy.

Herzberg was born in Hamburg on Christmas Day 1904 into a middle-class family having little academic background. Interest in astronomy, atomic and molecular physics was aroused by his teachers in secondary school and he went on to study technical physics at the Technische Hochschule in Darmstadt. During his pre-doctoral studies he quickly revealed exceptional talents, particularly in spectroscopy, and a post-doctoral period at Göttingen and Bristol (1928-30) brought him into contact with many of the great names in the new physics. There he also met and married Luise Oettinger, a student of physics at Frankfurt, who became herself a highly respected spectroscopist.

His first independent post was as Privatdozent in spectroscopy at Darmstadt. But, informed in 1934 that, married to a wife of Jewish origins, he could not continue to teach students, he had to contemplate emigration. One of the leading molecular physicists at the age of 30, he realised he would soon be without a job as well as without a country. Openings were few but the intervention of a postgraduate student, John Spinks, from the University of Saskatchewan, led to an offer by its President, W.C. Murray, of a Research Professorship there.

As Herzberg recalled, "From Chicago... we travelled by train via Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Regina and finally to Saskatoon. On travelling between Winnipeg and Saskatoon, we became increasingly worried because the train seemed to stop at places that had only a few houses, and we were wondering what Saskatoon would be like. We were pleasantly surprised."

So began 10 highly productive and happy years and a lasting attachment to Canada.

Facilities at Saskatoon were however limited and the teaching load considerable. Herzberg therefore accepted an invitation in 1945 to join the staff of the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory. The attraction lay in the emphasis on research and in a closer association with his first love, astronomy. Life in the new surroundings was, however, not without problems. Rescue came soon, in an invitation to return to Canada as Director of the Division of Physics of the National Research Council in Ottawa, in 1948. There he was to remain for the rest of his life and to create his greatest achievement, the laboratories of its spectroscopy section - among the world's "Grand Labs" in physics.

Traditionally, NRC's role had been to provide federal support for applied research in infrastructural areas such as building, telecommunications, roads, agriculture and fisheries. It also maintained the national standards laboratory. Largely through the foresight of E.W.R. Steacie, Director of its Division of Chemistry, NRC's post-war remit was widened to include areas of "pure" scientific research, to strengthen what we would now call Canada's

science base in a way that its universities could then not yet do.

The Division of Physics was therefore assured the long-term resources needed to equip and operate the new laboratories. Herzberg followed Steacie in a departure from what might have been the conventional model of staffing in a governmental institution. The number of permanent staff was small, typically around half a dozen. The list of appointments made during his tenure of the Directorship, between 1948 and 1968, gives only 12 names. They were chosen to lead the different but still independent specialities within the broad church that spectroscopy had become, each largely free to pursue his own direction.

The main body of scientific workers lay in a stream of post-doctoral research fellows, appointed and funded by NRC for periods up to two years and usually assigned to work with a member of the permanent staff - much as postgraduates work in universities. The success of such arrangements depends on the ability to attract good people, and of this there was never any question. The name of Herzberg, "GH" as he was now affectionately known, was an irresistible draw world-wide. Although his personal research, undiminished in vigour and productivity, had become a minor element in the total output, his authority, guidance and enthusiastic support continued to provide a dominant coherence to all that went on. His personal example set the standards, especially

*The cry 'Look it up in Herzberg' will resound in laboratories as long as molecular spectroscopy is practised*

in the publications that appeared under the laboratory's name.

Some 80 post-docs passed through in the years 1948-68. Many from abroad remained in Canada, fulfilling one of the founders' hopes. Many went on to distinguished careers in universities, the public service or in science-based industries. Besides Herzberg himself, seven former post-docs or staff members became Fellows of the Royal Society. To the lists must be added the many spectroscopists of all levels of seniority and from all over the world who were welcomed as visitors for durations of weeks or months, to learn or to use the laboratories' equipment so generously put at their disposal. Many analyses in distant labs were made on spectra taken in Ottawa. Finally, Herzberg's success would not have been possible without the support of two people who joined him at the outset: Alex Douglas, his former graduate student at Saskatoon, and Jack Shoosmith, his technical assistant, formerly at King's College London.

Spectroscopy is a technique. It analyses the radiation absorbed and emitted by atoms and molecules. It is through their spectra that these reveal themselves to us: their electronic and geometric structures, their internal dynamics, the strengths of their bonds and their chemical interconversions. Spectroscopy gives us our main, and often only, means of access to those physical domains of space and time, way outside the

bounds of direct human experience, in which atoms and molecules operate. Therein lies its fascination. Molecular structures take us to small distances - millionths of a millimetre. Molecular astrophysics takes us into the vast distance of outer space. And primary chemical reactions take us into regimes of brief instants in which a microsecond can be a long, long time.

Herzberg's explorations of all of these domains were numerous, diverse and profound. He was above all an experimentalist, drawing on theory as needed but taking it largely as developed by others.

His interests fall into several classes. One lifelong interest lay in the study of the electronic structures of diatomic molecules. Their numerous electronic states occur in sets whose patterns have led to the recognition of an electronic shell-structure of chemical bonding, a wholly quantum-mechanical, non-classical phenomenon generating the laws of valency familiar to all secondary-school students of chemistry, in a way analogous to the shell-structure of atoms that generates the chemist's periodic table of the elements.

The concept of antibonding electrons first introduced as such by Herzberg is now also a part of A-level chemistry. Atoms of all the elements will intercombine to form diatomic molecules in at least one bound electronic state, which has to live only long enough to emit a spectrum, a fraction of a microsecond. Typical sources are electric discharges through gases and thus, as an example, the known bound states of diatomic helium, the quintessentially inert monatomic element, long outnumbered those of diatomic hydrogen, the prototype of chemical bonding.

Herzberg's most seminal contribution lies however in the monumental review of the field, in his book *Spectra of Diatomic Molecules*, the second edition of which (1950) is definitive and timeless.

In astrophysical spectroscopy, Herzberg's most abiding interest, the problem is often to identify an unknown molecular species responsible for a known stellar or interstellar spectrum, by reproducing the stellar spectrum in a terrestrial source. Successes include the detection of CH<sup>+</sup> in interstellar space and triatomic carbon, C<sub>3</sub>, in the tails of comets. The most heroic, however, was perhaps the identification of molecular hydrogen in the atmospheres of Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus by its weak absorption-lines in the infra-red, reproduced in the laboratory in an absorption-cell some 20m long, fitted with internal mirrors giving with 250 traversals an absorbing-path of 5km through cooled, compressed gaseous hydrogen.

The third major interest lay in attempts to extend the study of electronic structure to molecules of more than two atoms. An immediate problem is that most small, chemically stable polyatomic molecules have closed-shell configurations and are colourless. Their excited electronic states lie at high energies and are so unstable that they do not live long enough to emit radiation. Their absorption-spectra are often also diffuse. Open-shell molecules, in contrast, are usually coloured in the visible or near-ultraviolet and their absorption-spectra are sharp. The largest accessible class of such molecules are the chemist's free radicals, long postulated as short-lived, highly reactive intermediates in many chemical processes but barely characterised in structural detail.

The breakthrough came with the invention of flash-photolysis, first ex-



"GH": winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1971, for his work on free radicals

ploited by Norrish and Porter in Cambridge in the late 1940s and then developed independently by Herzberg and D.A. Ramsay who joined him from the Chemistry Division at NRC in 1949. A gas of stable molecules such as ammonia, NH<sub>3</sub>, is subjected to an intense flash of ultraviolet light for a period of microseconds. It decomposes into the radical NH<sub>2</sub> and atomic hydrogen, H. After a short delay, a second short flash of white light probes the reaction-vessel before the radicals have had time to decay by reactive collisions and the emergent probe light carries their absorption spectrum. The spectrum of NH<sub>2</sub> was the first to be thus fully analysed.

Many others followed, including those of HCO, HNO, BH<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>, and it seems ironic that more is known about excited states of free radicals than of stable molecules. But the crowning triumph was in obtaining the spectra of the methyl radical, CH<sub>3</sub> (1956) and, finally, after 17 years of effort, of the methylene radical, CH<sub>2</sub> (1969), subsequently in both of its electronic isomers, triplet and singlet. The spectra were taken by Jack Shoosmith.

For these explorations of free radicals, Herzberg's probably most notable achievement, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1971.

Herzberg's life was rich and influential. What endures? In the short term, the respect and affectionate memories in the minds of all who knew him - colleagues, collab-

orators, students for his integrity, modesty, intellectual stimulation, generosity and warm friendship. In the medium term, some of his spectroscopic triumphs and the traditions in the lab he founded, perhaps. But spectroscopy has moved on, and the development of new technologies such as lasers, combined with the immensely powerful computational facilities we now have, unknown in Herzberg's days, have changed the directions of enquiry.

The foundations remain, however, and GH's lasting monument will be his trilogy of monographs, *Molecular Spectra and Molecular Structure*, I-III, published between 1939 and 1966. The cry "Look it up in Herzberg" will resound in laboratories as long as molecular spectroscopy is practised.

JOHN CALLOMON

The field of spectroscopy has always seemed to me to be much freer from the competitive pressures that tend to afflict many other areas of research, writes Sir Harold Kroto. I think this is because two founding fathers of the field were real gentlemen and their general attitude had a massive influence both intellectually and ethically on the way others in the field worked. One was E. Bright Wilson of Harvard, who died in 1989, and the other was Gerhard Herzberg.

The exciting and open atmosphere that pervaded molecular spectroscopic research was due

in no small measure to their influence on their numerous students and collaborators.

As a young chemistry student who had, almost overnight, fallen in love with spectroscopy, I suddenly became acquainted with real spectroscopy when I found a book in a local bookshop. It was an amazing book, beautifully bound in a yellow-gold cloth-bound cover. The title was embossed in gold letters on the spine, *The Spectra of Diatomic Molecules*, by Gerhard Herzberg. It was the first in what was to become the famous series *Molecular Spectra and Molecular Structure*.

I understood almost nothing of the text but it was illustrated with beautiful reproductions of spectra. They showed elegant patterns of lines that tell us that molecules could count accurately, and this captured my imagination. These patterns were the key to understanding molecules: their atomic composition, their structures and many other properties, all to be divined by careful analysis of their colours.

In spectroscopy was to be found the most perfect and particularly the most direct pictorial and quantitative expression of quantum-theory. This perhaps indicates why I and many of my spectroscopic colleagues are so enamoured of the field. I am sure that it was this perfection to which we became addicted, and perhaps the greatest addict was GH himself - the father of high-resolution molecular spectroscopy.

In 1964, when I received my PhD, an invitation to come to Ottawa - the Mecca of molecular spectroscopy - was irresistible. GH had by then assembled an all-star team of senior scientists: Alec Douglas, Cec Costain, Don Ramsay, Boris Stoltchell - all outstanding in their own right. I had met GH once before at a conference, in 1963, but in Ottawa I quickly came to know him on a more personal level. He always seemed larger than life, with a strong, distinctive but friendly personality, even though he was physically quite small.

GH's features were striking, his voice deep and vibrant and his perfect spoken English appeared, to me, to be a combination of German precision in delivery but without accent. He was always approachable and keen to discuss all manner of problems. Furthermore, he exuded an enthusiasm that immediately made one feel a valued member of the laboratory. The ease with which I was able to communicate with the other senior scientists and my peers was a key part of my education and came from the example he set.

Post-docs enjoyed significant freedom to pursue independent research. In such cases their results would be published independently although the post-docs might be working on other projects with supervisors. But GH personally read all manuscripts produced by the group and went through them meticulously: they had to be up to standard - his standard!

One day I made some quite unexpected discoveries of new spectroscopic features belonging to a species that GH had previously studied himself. I saw that he was just as excited as I was over the new findings. He was particularly kind to young scientists.

In later years I visited NRC fairly regularly and found that as GH turned successively 70, then 80 and then even 90, he never lost the almost boyish passion for trying to unravel the puzzles that molecules leave buried in the complex spectroscopic patterns they create when they interact with light.

Perhaps no incident sums up GH's personality in my memory better than the time I went to see him after he had read through the manuscript of my first successful independent investigation. It was a study of which I was most proud and he praised my work and the written account. However, he felt I should give somewhat more credit to two others who had observed the same features previously but had not been able to assign them correctly. GH pointed out that the previous workers could not in fact have correctly assigned the features because they had only a small "pocket" spectrometer whereas I had the best equipment in the world at my disposal. It was a lesson in magnanimity that I have never forgotten.

Gerhard Herzberg, molecular physicist: born Hamburg, Germany 25 December 1904; Privatdozent, Technische Hochschule, Darmstadt 1930-35; Research Professor, University of Saskatchewan 1935-45; FRSC 1939; Professor of Spectroscopy, Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago 1945-48; Director, Division of Physics, National Research Council of Canada 1949-69; Distinguished Research Scientist 1969-95 (Emeritus); FRS 1951; CC (Canada) 1968, PC (Canada) 1992; Nobel Prize for Chemistry 1971; married 1929 Luise Oettinger (died 1971; one son, one daughter); 1972 Monica Terhoff; died Ottawa, Ontario 3 March 1999.

## Ernest Gold

THE COMPOSER Ernest Gold's soaring score for *Exodus*, Otto Preminger's epic film about the formation of the state of Israel, won him the 1960 Academy Award as well as two Grammys. The steadily main theme also became a hit for such pop stars as Pat Boone, reaching second place on the popular music charts - to the surprise of the composer, who considered the theme "too serious and too long-hair for popular appeal".

Gold's other scores included Sam Peckinpah's *Cross of Iron*, and many Stanley Kramer productions, among them *The Defiant Ones*, *Ship of Fools* and *Judgment at Nuremberg*. He was Oscar-nominated for both best score and best song for Kramer's *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, and received further nominations for *On the Beach* and *The Secret of Santa Vittoria*.

The son of a lawyer who played the violin, Gold was born in Vienna in 1921, and like two other Viennese composers who went on to Hollywood fame, Max Steiner and Erich Wolfgang Korngold, he was a child prodigy. Gold's achievements could not be said to match those of his two compatriots, who figure among the greatest of screen composers, but

his work earned great respect and he was particularly effective in his interpolation of traditional and folk music into symphonic scores.

He began studying violin and piano at the age of six, started composing two years later and at the age of 13 wrote a full-length opera. "My parents felt that being a composer was just a childish dream," he said. "They felt that most composers seemed destined to live and die in poverty, but I felt it was just a question of being discovered."

He studied at the State Academy of Music in Vienna but in 1938, with the Nazis taking over Austria, his family fled to the United States, where Gold's first symphony was performed and broadcast by the NBC Orchestra in 1939. He also started writing popular songs, and one of them, "Private Makes Perfect", spent 17 weeks on the hit parade. The singer Kate Smith, noted for patriotic material, had a hit with Gold's "They Started Something" during the Second World War.

In 1945 Gold moved to Hollywood with a letter of introduction to Columbia Pictures, who signed him to write the score for a 60-minute melodrama, *Girl of the Limberlost*. Other minor films followed, includ-

ing an engrossing B-movie thriller at Universal, *Smooth as Silk* (1946), but his first major opportunity came when Stanley Kramer hired him to orchestrate George Antheil's music for *Not as a Stranger* (1955). He then conducted and orchestrated both Antheil's score for the Kramer epic *The Pride and the Passion* (1957) and Maddy Malneck's score for Billy Wilder's superb transcription of the Agatha Christie play *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957).

The following year he was given his first chance to compose the score of an important film, the screen version of Diana Barrymore's biography *Too Much, Too Soon* (1958). The film was not successful but Gold's music was described by *Variety* as a "highlight" and the soundtrack recording was to have a longer life than the film itself.

Kramer then asked Gold to score his powerful and critically acclaimed story of racial tensions, *The Defiant Ones* (1958), the first of Kramer's films for which Gold provided music. For Kramer's *On the Beach* (1959), based on Nevil Shute's Australian-set story about mankind's annihilation due to radioactive fall-out, Gold made telling use of variations on the folksong "Waltzing Matilda" in what



Gold: winner of an Oscar for his score for *Exodus*, 1960

*The New York Times* called "a fine musical score", and for *Inherit the Wind* (1960), inspired by the 1925 trial of a Tennessee teacher who dared to teach Darwin's theory of evolution, using rousing numbers like "Old Time Religion" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" in a score

credited with giving the long film added excitement.

But it was Preminger's three-and-a-half-hour epic *Exodus* (1960) that brought the composer his greatest fame. *Variety* reported: "Ernest Gold's score is a strong plus factor and through its use of minor chords provides a flavoursome blending of ancient Hebrew strains with the modern surge of a people on the march." The haunting title theme became a popular hit, as did Gold's fitting title song for the comedy *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* (1963), with lyrics by Mack David.

For Kramer's *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961), Gold's score included a short overture that effectively set the mood for the powerful experience to come, and his expressive and moving music for Kramer's production *A Child is Waiting* (1963), directed by John Cassavetes and dealing with mentally retarded children, was described by *Variety* as "a vital factor".

Notable among Gold's later scores was his rousing music for Peckinpah's uncompromising picture of Germans fighting on the Russian front in 1943, *Cross of Iron* (1977), in which he again made effective use of folk music.

Gold once described his views on soundtrack scores:

What is visible should not be duplicated in the soundtrack. Music can demonstrate inner processes taking place in the characters, elucidate relations between them and - most importantly - throw its weight with or against a character in order to sway the point of equilibrium of a scene.

He continued to write symphonic and chamber works along with his film scores and in 1968 wrote a Broadway musical, *I'm Solomon*, with lyrics by Anne Crosswell. Based on an Israeli comedy, *King Solomon and the Cobbler*, and starring the comedian Dick Shawn, it ran for only seven performances. Gold later commented,

From the point of view of a Broadway composer, the most nonsensical practice is that of casting people in musicals who are unable to sing. The hapless composer and lyricist are forced to throw out good material that had been created over a fairly extended length of time and must try to come up with quick solutions that must cover for the inadequacies in the singing realm.

The theatre historian Ken Mandelbaum later wrote that the show had "a couple of nice songs and an extremely silly book".

Gold was fortunate in not being asked to write the score for a musi-

cal version of *Exodus* produced three years later. Entitled *Ari*, it featured among its attractions a "concentration camp ballet" and closed after 19 performances.

Gold's first wife was Marni Nixon, a singer famous for her off-screen dubbing of such stars as Deborah Kerr, Natalie Wood and Audrey Hepburn; his second wife, Jan Keller, survives him.

At one time the music director of the Santa Barbara Symphony Orchestra, Gold had in recent years founded the Los Angeles Senior Citizens Orchestra, for whom he was principal conductor. Acknowledging that many artists abandon their goals, he stated, "I know it's easy to grow discouraged. Somehow I was lucky enough to escape that popular affliction. Even as a child I was carried along by the convictions that I'd be successful in a musical career."

TOM VALLANCE

Ernest Gold, film composer: born Vienna 13 July 1921; married first Marni Nixon (one son, two daughters; marriage dissolved); second Jan Keller (one stepson); died Santa Monica, California 17 March 1999.

John Callomon



# Vera Delf

VERA DELF, painter and peripatetic protester, was one of those singular Edwardian women who make one wonder why the women's movement took so long to catch up.

Independent to the point of arrogance, she somehow managed to enchain everyone with whom she came in contact. Saving the social reformer Barbara Wootton from serious injury by scolding in China in the 1970s, facing down the French police in Paris in 1968, or creating a near mutiny in the British army in India, she had a knack of being where the action was and the charm to carry off the complications that usually resulted from her single-minded application of principle to action.

Whether playing badminton in the rain with her grandchildren or terrorising the security men of the American Air Force she always acted with dedicated conviction. "She showed," wrote Marjorie Parker, "a relish in swimming against the conventional tide. Yet she had so much warmth and charm that even those who profoundly disagreed with her cherished her friendship."

Born Vera Hart to a fourth-generation colonial family in Cawnpore, India, in 1859, she grew up in surroundings which did not make for radicalism. Her earliest letters show this clearly. "I don't know why the Indians want us out of the country," she once wrote, "I've never seen anybody being beastly to the Indians." This changed quickly and the children of old India hands still speak fearfully of the remonstrations she visited on colonial wives caught being unpleasant to her beloved Indian friends.

In 1924 she attended Glasgow Art School for a year but typically had little patience with the academic methods of the time. She became a non-academic painter of fresh, direct portraits. Her ability to capture likeness had been evident at an early age and her confidence and economy of line put her work, especially of children, much in demand.

Her approach to painting was at one with her approach to life and politics. Efficient research or mastery of detail never interested her. It was the broad brush and the immediate impact that characterised both her life and her painting. Her friend Jill Tweedie was once heard to remark that Delf "could not be bothered with anything more complicated than what she already knew". In most things she had both the penetration and the limitations of the autodidact.

Despite a stern parental injunction against shipboard romances and "joining the bridge-playing clique", she typically ignored their warnings enough on a journey from England to India to fall in love with an army officer. Charles Delf then neglected to ask his superior for permission to marry. Taken to task, he told his commanding officer that it was none of his business. Vera had found a soulmate. She did however take heed of the bridge warning and this saved her from many of the pitfalls of being an army officer's wife. "to my children's benefit," she frequently announced.

Her unshakeable conviction of her own rightness caused some problems. At one point during a dysentery epidemic in India she embarked on a campaign to clean up the British military kitchens. Her daughter Deborah Ardizzone remembers that the ominous



Delf - the 'authoritarian anarchist' - at Greenham Common

sound of her approaching pony and trap signalled a bout of feverish fly-swatting audible a quarter of a mile away.

"Properly fed soldiers are less vulnerable to infection," she announced as she replaced much of the normal stodge with chilled consommé, salads and fresh fruit. Nothing more substantial was offered and soldiers who had survived with relative equanimity the worst theatres of the Second World War revolted. It took all Brigadier Delf's diplomacy to avert a serious mutiny and both army and India Office breathed a sigh of relief when Vera Delf departed for England in 1946.

But army conventions were never safe in her vicinity. Finding that troopship conditions had resulted in more

enough to alienate the more Neanderthal elements of Suffolk's deep blue county set - where the Delfs went to live after returning from India. They had expected to find natural allies in Brigadier and Mrs Delf. She spent a brief spell as a prospective Liberal candidate but resigned with a typically coruscating letter attacking the local party organisation and the "swamp Tory tendencies of its members", as she put it.

However her letters of the time show an acute awareness that the day of the amateur MP had already ended and that her own impatience with detail made her unfit for the work of the post-war House. Her attention turned to single-issue groups where her role of general gadfly could be more effective. Inevitably

Her husband the Brigadier drew the line at the Aldermaston March. 'But you meet such a nice class of person on it,' she said

ing recipients of lectures on their country's foreign policy. She convinced everyone that she mattered.

Her opposition to nuclear power stations brought the manager of nearby Sizewell A to her home in a fruitless attempt to convince her that nuclear power was safe. The American ambassador wrote her an apology for the hate mail she received following publication of one of her letters in *The New York Times*.

Her letter writing was legendary - she was the Keith Flint of her day, pouring out a constant stream of letters to the world's English-language press. In much of this she had her husband's support. As the horror of Vietnam gradually became more apparent he took a grim pleasure in attacking the Vietnam War in *The Times* and signing his letters "Brigadier Retd". While opposed to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, he drew the line at the Aldermaston March his wife and daughter insisted on attending. "But," she explained to him happily on her return from the second one, "you meet such a nice class of person on the Aldermaston March."

As well as writing Delf travelled for pleasure and peace, invariably mixing both activities to the bewilderment of Iron Curtain apparatchiks and indeed officialdom everywhere. As a grandmother, she felt fervently that her grandchildren should have a world to inherit. The women she met tended to be apolitically conservative and she set out to change this in Britain and world-wide. Through Russia, Poland, East Germany, Sweden, China, America, Italy, Portugal, France and Greece she travelled, lectured and made lifelong friends, solving the language problem with drawings and occasional lapses into Urdu.

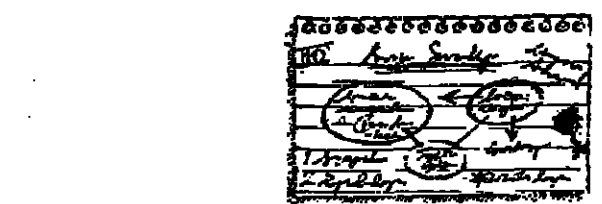
Oddly for an army officer's wife she never really understood rank and hated any authority apart from her own. "Authoritarian anarchist" was a phrase used by both friend and foe about her attitudes. In particular she virulently opposed racism and applauded its opponents. She was delighted by the release of Nelson Mandela and in her last months, crippled and chairbound, she insisted on being wheeled past a hall portrait of Nelson Mandela so she could formally bid goodbye to the man she had written to so often on Robben Island.

A veteran of Greenham Common and protests in Grosvenor Square, she gradually withdrew from demonstrations and lecture tours as age took its toll. She concentrated instead on letter-writing and on the art gallery she had set up, with the help of Julian Trevelyan and Mary Fedden, in the grounds of her Suffolk home in the early Sixties. A number of successful artists exhibited there and many more, among them John Piper, Henry Holzer, Keith Grant, Ian Simpson, donated pictures for the causes like Medical Aid for Vietnam that she supported.

There will be a retrospective of her pictures and some memorabilia at the Yaxford Gallery, starting on 9 May with a celebration of her life and the scattering of her ashes in the garden she loved.

JOHN PILGRIM

Vera Eleanor Hart, painter and peace campaigner: born Cawnpore, India 17 August 1904; married 1929 Charles Delf (died 1981); one son; two daughters; died Yaxford, Suffolk; 26 February 1999.



## MATHEMATICAL NOTES

BERNOIT MANDELBROT

# Poetry and art out of geometric chaos

FRACTALS SEEM far more special than most general shapes of mathematics because they are characterised by so-called "symmetries". Broadly speaking, mathematical and natural fractals are shapes whose roughness and fragmentation neither tend to vanish nor fluctuate up and down, but remain unchanged as one zooms in continually and examination is refined. Hence, the structure of every piece holds the key to the whole structure.

Fractal geometry is conveniently viewed as a language, and it has proven its value by its uses. Its uses in art and pure mathematics, being without "practical" application, can be said to be poetic. Its uses in various areas of the study of materials and of other areas of engineering are examples of practical prose. Its uses in physical theory, especially in conjunction with the basic equations of mathematical physics, combine poetry and high prose.

To the layman, fractal art tends to seem simply magical, but no mathematician can fail to try and understand its structure and its meaning. Between the extremes of the excessive geometric order of Euclid and of the geometric chaos of the most general mathematics, can there be a middle ground of "organised" or "orderly" geometric chaos? To provide such a middle ground is the ambition of fractal geometry. The fact that fractals are difficult

to grasp and slow to develop does not make them any less fascinating.

Pure mathematics certainly does exist as one of the remarkable activities of Man, it certainly is different in spirit from the art of creating pictures by numerical manipulation, and it has indeed proven that it can thrive in splendid isolation - at least over brief periods. Nevertheless, the interaction between art, mathematics, and fractals confirms what is suggested by almost all earlier experiences. Over the long haul mathematics gains by not attempting to destroy the "organic" unity that appears to exist between seemingly disparate but equally worthy activities of man, the abstract and the intuitive.

So how did fractals come to play their roles of "extracting order out of chaos"? The algorithms that generate fractals are typically so extraordinarily short as to look positively dumb. This means they must be called "simple". Their fractal outputs, to the contrary, often appear to involve structures of great richness. *A priori* one would have expected that the construction of complex shapes would necessitate complex rules.

What is the special feature that makes fractal geometry perform in such an unusual manner? The answer is very simple. The algorithms are recursive, and the computer code written to represent them involves "loops". That

is, the basic instructions are simple, and their effects can be followed easily. But let these simple instructions be followed repeatedly. The process of iteration effectively builds up an increasingly complicated transform, whose effects the mind can follow less and less easily. Eventually one reaches something that is "qualitatively" different from the original building block.

Many fractals have been accepted as works of a new form of art. Some are "representational", others totally abstract. Yet all strike almost everyone in forceful, almost sensual, fashion. The artist, the child, and the "man in the street" never seem to have seen enough, and they never expected to have seen anything of this sort from mathematics. Neither had the mathematician expected his field to interact with art in this way.

Eugene Wigner has written about "the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics in the natural sciences". To this line I have been privileged to add a parallel statement concerning "the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics as creator of shapes that man can marvel about and enjoy".

Benoit Mandelbrot is the author of *The Fractal Geometry of Nature* (W.H. Freeman and Co, £45.95) and *Multi-fractals and 1/f Noise* (Springer-Verlag, £26.95).

# A Jewish answer to a Christian pomposity

We have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of God, a minister in the sanctuary, and the true tabernacle, which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

The Epistle to the Hebrews

THESE WORDS are drawn from the Epistle set for today, the Tuesday in Holy Week. At first, the words seem awkward and odd, like the rest of that Epistle. It dates from around Paul's time, and it seems to be written for an eccentric Jewish Christian sect, not much older than Paul's epistles. The anonymous author talks about the Priesthood of Christ, and how it is superior to that of the Jewish Temple - more like that, he says, of Melchizedek. And before we have time to enquire: "Who he?" he mutters, "I have much to tell you about this Melchizedek," and we fear that one is here who will make the Ancient Mariner seem like a purveyor of snappy one-liners. In any case, the Jerusalem Temple went up in flames in AD70, soon after the Epistle was written. It hardly seems worth the effort.

But further into the Epistle is the bit that sends a shock through the soul:

In the course of his earthly life he offered up prayers and petitions, with loud cries and tears, to God who was able to deliver him from death.

These words take us to Holy Week - to the conflict with the Temple authorities, to Jesus's claims to be able to destroy the Temple and to rebuild it after three days. They take us straight to the garden of Gethsemane, in one of the very few passages in the Epistles that resonates with the gospel narratives.

It is common in religion that devotees make sacrifices as part of their worship to an otherwise implacable God. But the author of this letter to the Hebrews insists that, in the sacrifice of Christ, an entirely different transaction occurs. Now, instead, it is God who is devoted to humanity.

This revelation transforms the human relationship to God in the most radical way. Formerly, the Divine was approached by the means prescribed by law or tradition - and which it may be fatal to transgress. But now, all is changed; humanity no longer has to strive to fulfil the divine

thanks, the literal meaning of "Eucharist". Of course, the form of worship that most resembles that humane, personal style is the Jewish Seder - the family meal with which Jews this week commemorate the feast of Passover. For the sensibility of this Epistle is, above all, Jewish.

That kind of worship exists over against all the mechanical, impersonal forces of the world - which our anonymous author saw embodied in the Temple in Jerusalem. Today it is all too often to be found in the Church where self-regarding pomp - and our ingenious preaching, with its tedious stories and dreadful jokes - can all too easily wreck the celebration of the mysteries. It is a tendency deflated in J.B. Priestley's phrase about the pompous conformist who took pride in being "a big man at 't' Chapel".

The author invokes the presence of God, and the nature of Christ's sacrifice, and the presence of all who have ever sought God, in a way that no other scripture does. He enjoys one faculty above all - imagination. This quality serves worship more crucially than other, perhaps more pious, attributes.

This is why. Let's assume that the world is not hugely depraved. Let's simply assert that it's just there. Its problem is that it's well, mundane. It is in worship that we conjure that great cloud of witnesses into our presence, and assert the primacy of the truly human, despite all the forces that dehumanise us. It is in public ritual that we discover our secret selves - often more successfully than in private self searching. But the worship works only when the spiritual imagination stirs us from the mundane. This happens nowhere more powerfully in Scripture than in the Epistle's final blessing:

Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with every good thing that you may do his will.

John Kennedy is Secretary for Political Affairs for the Methodist Church.

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHDAYS

John Allen, former Principal, Central School of Speech and Drama, 87; Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, former Secretary to the Cabinet, 72; Miss Sarah Badel, actress, 56; Mr Warren Beatty, actor, 62; Lord Browne-Wilkinson, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 69; Mr Eric Clapton, rock guitarist, 54; Mr John Coates, naval architect, 77; Miss Sue Cook, television presenter, 50; Mr Alan Davidson, writer, publisher and former diplomat, 75; Mr Martin Dunne, Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, 61; Mr Graeme Edge, rock performer, 56; Mr George Esso, former Chief Constable, Dumfries and Galloway, 57; Professor Sir Ernst Gellert, OM, art historian, 90; Sir John Gray, marine biologist, 81; Mr Rolf Harris, entertainer, 69; Professor Tony Honore, former Regius Professor of Civil Law, Oxford University, 78; Ms Beverly Hughes MP, 49; Sir John

Jennings, former chairman, Shell Transport and Trading Co, 61; Professor Ron Johnston, Professor of Geography, Bristol University, 58; Mr Nigel Jones MP, 51; Mr Frankie Laine, singer, 88; Mr Bernard Lyons, former chairman, UDS Group, 86; Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, chairman, England and Wales Cricket Board, 62; Mr Piers Morgan, Editor, the Mirror, 34; Mr Tom Sharpe, novelist and historian, 71; The Countess of Sutherland, Chief of the Clan Sutherland, 78; Lord Tanlaw, chairman and managing director, Pandstan Ltd, 65; General Sir Richard Trant, former Quarter Master General, 71; Sir John Wells, former ME 74; Professor Arie Zuckerman, Dean, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 67.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Maimonides (Moses ben Maimon), Jewish philosopher, 1135; Sir John

Hawkins, publisher, editor and historian, 1719; Paul Verlaque, poet, 1844; Vincent van Gogh, painter, 1853; Sean O'Casey, playwright and writer, 1880; Joyce Carey, actress, 1898.

Deaths: Pietro Locatelli, violinist and composer, 1764; William Hunter, anatomist, obstetrician and medical writer, 1783; George Bryan "Beau" Brummel, dandy and leader of fashion, 1840; John Caldwell Calhoun, statesman, 1850; Rudolf Steiner, social philosopher, 1925; Leon Blum, statesman, 1950; Airey Middleton, Sheffield Neave MP, barrister and writer, killed 1979; James Cagney, actor, 1986.

On this day: the Treaty of Paris was signed, ending the Crimean War between Russia on one side and England, France, Turkey and Sardinia on the other, 1856; a treaty for the purchase of Alaska from Russia for the sum of \$7.2m was submitted to the US Senate, 1867; Thomas

Francis Bayard, first US ambassador to Great Britain, arrived at his post, 1893; the first news event was filmed, when the Oxford and Cambridge boat race was captured on film by Robert Paul and Birt Acres, using a camera of their own invention; 1895: President Lyndon Johnson agreed to the shipping of additional grain to aid the starving millions of India, stricken by famine, 1946; the US Embassy in Saigon, Vietnam was blown up by the Vietcong, killing 13 people, 1966; President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest by John W. Hinckley Jr, 1981.

Today is the Feast Day of St John Climacus, St Leonard Murialdo, St Ludolf, St Osburga, St Rieul or Regulus and St Zosimus of Syracuse.

### LECTURES

British Museum: Lorna Oakes, "Assyria and the Bible", 11.30am. National Gallery: Kathleen

Adler, "Ingres and... (v): Ingres and Degas and Manet", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Valerie Holman, "Paintings and Photography in the 19th Century", 2pm. National Portrait Gallery: Toba Mann, "Virginia Woolf as 'The Common Reader'", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Robert Wenley, "French Bronzes in the Wallace Collection", 1pm.

### RECEPTIONS

British Safety Council: Mr Ian Coleman MP hosted a reception yesterday at the House of Commons, London SW1, for the British Safety Council's Five Star Health and Safety Management System Audit awards. Among those presenting awards to the 29 winning companies were the following MPs:

Mr Colin Fiddell; Mr John Cummings; Mr Julie Kirkwood; Mr Roger Gale; Mr Paul Flynn; Mr Martin Slater; Dr Kim Howells; Mr Bob Bizzard; Ms Lorna Fitzsimons.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.00am, hand provided by the Irish Guards.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Life Member, attends a lunch at the Arts Club, London W1; and, as Honorary Fellow, attends the Royal College of Radiologists' concert and dinner at

St James's Palace. The Duke of York, Patron, inaugurates a new field ambulance for the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf at Buckingham Palace. The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, unveils Lord Gyllene, a sculpture, at Lawwades Park, Kentford, Suffolk; and gives a luncheon for

the Royal Veterinary College at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Kent visits Glasgow Exports, for briefing on a city-wide strategy for export support, and other companies at the West of Scotland Science Park, Glasgow. Princess Alexandra visits the General Dental Council at Wimpole Street, London W1.



# The celebrity catnap mystery

Remy the cat had it all. A loving family, good looks and a lucrative contract as the face of Sheba cat food. Now she's gone missing in strange circumstances. Is this the price of fame? By Steve Crawshaw

With pets, it's exactly like with babies. Everybody should be able to see the obvious: this is absolutely the most adorable one ever born. If others only see the little miracle as a screaming and mewling yapping and growling monster, that merely goes to show that they have no taste at all.

Lulled by that perception, thousands every year send pictures and videos of their adored animal to placement agencies with names like Animal Intellectuals and Animals Galore, in the hope that maybe their pet's unique brains and beauty will receive universal recognition. Very occasionally, they may be successful. More often, there is a polite letter of reply conceding "we'll keep your letter on file".

Occasionally, it happens the other way round. One girl, a few years ago, sent in her photograph in a bid to be the next Naomi Campbell or Kate Moss. She committed the tactical error of posing with her dog, in the hope that this would create a suitably cute effect. It did, but not in the way she had intended. She was informed that she did not make the grade, but as for her dog - yes, please. The dog had all the star qualities that were needed for success on the world stage.

Animals sometimes become at least as important as the product they are selling. The Dulux dog often seems better known than the ICI paint range which has, for some reason, been given the same name. The auditions to gain the Dulux Dog laurels are as hotly competitive as the Miss Pears quest for an angelic little curly-haired soap girl. Winners of the Dulux competition talk blissfully of achieving the holy grail: "I was so proud, it was like an electric shock through my body," said the owner of one successful Dulux dog after the finals at the opulent Lanesborough Hotel in London last year.

Imagine, then, the horror when a star goes missing. Remy, one of the stars of the famous Sheba cat-food adverts, has disappeared. Remy was due to be filmed in a new Sheba advert. But one evening, the pregnant cat suddenly "vanished into thin air", in the words of her owner, Linda Evans. Ms Evans, a cat breeder in Chislehurst, always felt a secret thrill of pride when she

got phone calls asking about the possibility of getting a cat "just like the Sheba cat". She insists: "I eat, sleep and drink this cat. I get up at any hour of the night, just calling her. I've become very obsessive. People think I'm a nut."

A dancer's legs can be insured for millions of dollars. So how much can a star cat or dog be worth? Linda Evans is indignant at the question. "People say she's worth £1,000. But she's not worth £1,000. It's silly to say what she's worth - she's priceless."

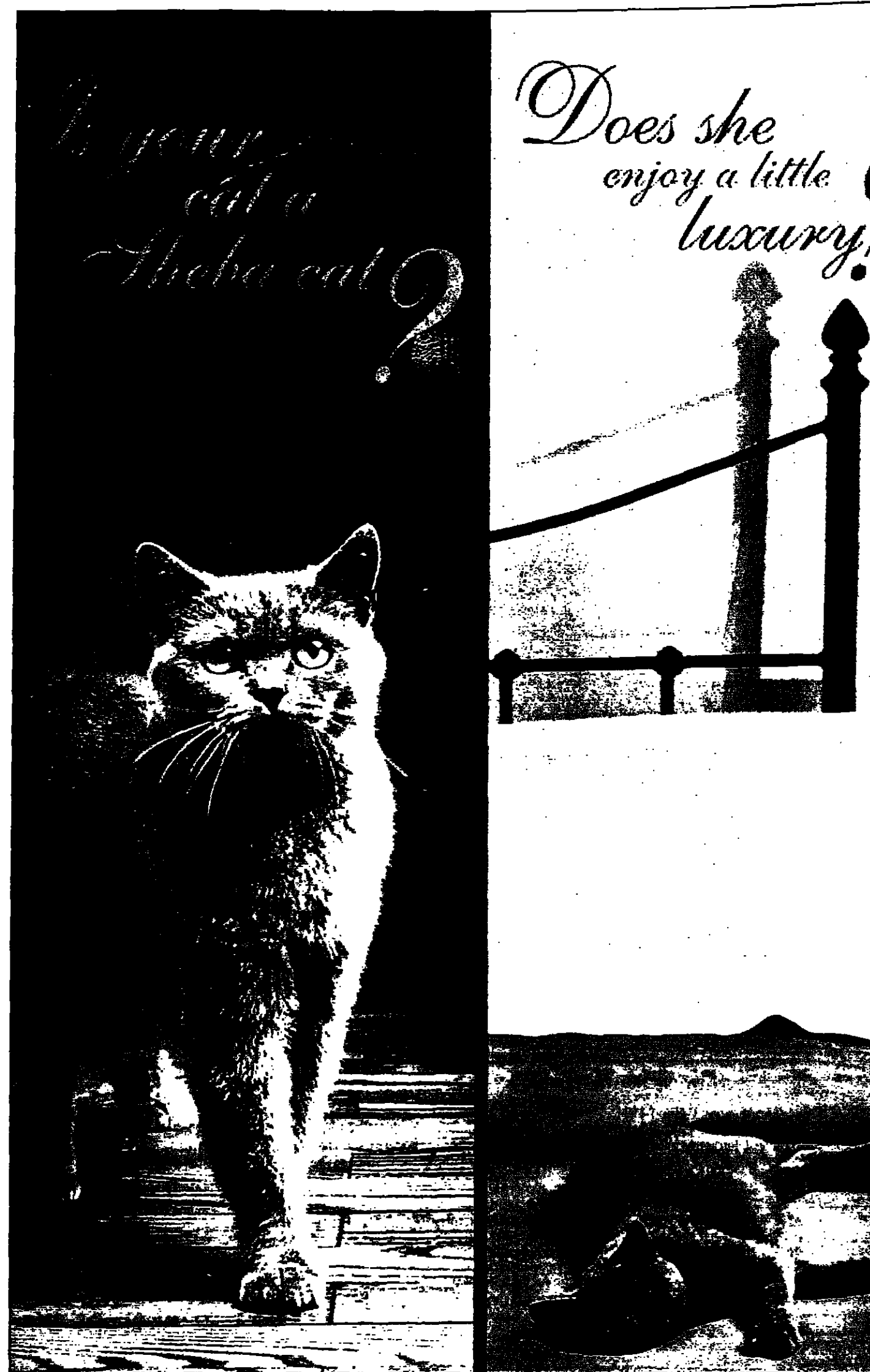
In strictly commercial terms, animals are rather more replaceable than their owners will admit.

*'It's the kudos that counts. You walk past a big poster and think, "That's mine!"'*

It's true, a few are unique. In the case of the old staple Kalfomeat, the cat that promoted it became so popular that Spiller's eventually caved in, ditched the old name in 1992 and renamed the product after its elegant white endorser. Arthur's cat food is inextricably linked with the cat that promotes it - with its trademark languid dipping of a paw into the tin. He has achieved national fame on a grand scale, and has even written his memoirs (with a bit of help from his owner, Anne Head).

Even in the case of Arthur, some sleight of hand allows for the disturbing interruption of mortality. The current Arthur is Arthur III, spotted as a kitten in an animal shelter in Wood Green, north London, and then carefully groomed for stardom. Arthur II, who died in retirement last year, had been spotted in the same animal shelter (a starry place, Wood Green). In the case of Arthur II, it was a matter, in the estate agent's phrase, of "has potential - needs extensive renovation". When Anne Head, doyenne of the animal-star world, first found Snowy (as he then was), he was "in a dreadful state". Much repair work was required before he attained a state of telegenic Arthurian glory.

Arthur III now has a couple of understudies who turn up for film shoots with him, in case the star for some reason fails to perform satisfactorily. But Arthur is the ex-



Remy, stolen star of Sheba ads: 'People say she's worth £1,000. But it's silly to say she's worth £1,000. She's priceless'

ception, in that he has achieved an approximation of solo star status.

Where you think you are seeing one animal, you are probably seeing two, three or more. In Remy, long filming schedules and the constant need for a cute little piglet meant that the Babes were endlessly replaced (with just a little cosmetic hair dye along the way to make sure that they all looked exactly the same).

As with the Babes (most of whom were presumably being turned into pork cutlets, even while their successors were charming the cameras and hoping for a Best Pig Oscar), there is no single Dulux Dog. Instead, there is a series of placid Old English sheepdogs, each of which must approximate to a Platonic ideal of the Great Dulux Dog.

Like their human counterparts, animals often have body doubles.

One may be superb at paw-work, another has the perfect quizzical look. Multiple Sheba cats are required. Remy is (or was) one of a large number of Sheba cats across the country - though the exact number is covered by a feline version of the Official Secrets Act. Pedigree - of Chum, Whiskas and Kit-e-Kat fame - is part of the Mars group, who guard their trade secrets fiercely, and refuse to divulge just how many Sheba cats are used in the UK. Trainers say, however, that they reckon to take "four or five" Sheba cats along to a single filming session.

The demand means that the chances for the owner of a would-be star are always there, if the look is right. Linda Evans still hopes that one of her cats will again be a Sheba cat. She is currently looking after another British

Blue which is due to give birth to kittens today. One of those kittens might be looking cute on your TV screen before long.

Little film stars need bodyguards to keep them safe; dogs and cats have to do without. The pay is not necessarily astonishing. Admittedly, a megastar like Arthur can produce what Anne Head calls "substantial" fees. It is generally reckoned that the animal Evangelists get around £1,000 a day - the standard rate, however, is closer to £100. As one trainer mournfully remarks: "You don't even get the repeat fees, not like human beings."

But, she adds: "It's the knos that counts. You walk past a big poster site, or you turn on the TV, and you think: 'That's mine!'"

The old director's rule about never working with animals and children remains valid. Everybody

agrees that there is nothing so bad as a neurotic cat. All those involved with animals and filming say that good temper counts for much more than good looks. Even then, acclimatisation to studio life is essential. Cats are brought in for studio visits to get used to the "Camera! Lights! Action!" routine, before they themselves ever enter the spotlight of fame.

At least cats can be assumed to be more or less well-behaved. Some animals are regarded as a definitively hopeless case, when it comes to filming. On one occasion, when the script called for a zebra, the director eventually plumped for an easier option. Zebras are temperamental, horses less so. The result: the production company took a pony, and painted it in black and white stripes. Like they say: the camera never lies.

## THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

39. GREASY SPOONS  
BY JOANNA BRISCOE

WHENEVER I am away for more than a month, an explosion of alarming expat tendencies resets my heart to Greenwich Mean Time. Yet those longings are not for some Jerusalem-drenched vision of green, but for a particular fug of grease, steam and wiped Formica. I twitch for baked beans, mahogany-hued tea and stained tabloids served in a rising babble of shouts and roadworks - in short, the sweet sorrow of the greasy spoon.

It's a particular world, so English and yet so Italian; unfriendly to a spectacular degree, with a crashing of crockery and communication in barks; or a home from home, your own lard-splattered sitting-room extension. Either way, I'm in my natural element. It's that precise, entirely predictable, nasty deliciousness, that gets me running, like a fool, to the "English" café Tea and Sympathy in New York if I'm away for too long, baying after the scent of comfort. It means that in London I barely move.

I'm never so relaxed as when sitting in a greasy spoon. The joy lies in the atmosphere of speckled lino, fly-spattered blinds, sunlight filtered through smeared windows to hit a cloud of steam, and an eternal war between bleach and grease. It's the language: the specials, the swarming apostrophes, the gunfire demands for a slice, a jacket, a serving of bubble. It's the smear-transparent pages of tabloids with sudden bright orange crusts from which you fear ghastly diseases but which you carry on reading.

My favourite café is Andrew's Restaurant, in Clerkenwell, London. There, to its murky beauty, its comforts and kindnesses, my thoughts home in from all corners of the world. With its vinyl and nicotine, its plastic menus and eternal goodwill, it's like a day-care centre for artists, window cleaners, gay activists, barristers, ITN presenters and escapers from rehabilitation centres. A dear and beloved Italian septuagenarian called Joanna owns, manages and serves. Cheeky lads call her "Mum"; care-in-the-community recipients roll up in jogging-pants and stained anoraks and treat her like a saviour. She's my namesake, duenna and dispenser of welcoming kisses and weak tea in the white-toast heaven that fuels my work.

The joy lies in the strange but distinctive juxtapositions that exist so happily in the classic greasy spoon: the misspellings, the "crispolini" and brown sauce, prawns and avocado, the industrial drill of the coffee machine, the sludge, dribble and snowy white napkins. I am so in love with my favoured local that I generally settle for the utter predictability of baked potatoes or toasted cheese-and-tomato sandwiches, and am resistant to offers of sea bass, truffle risotto or purple sprouting broccoli elsewhere. If someone wants to meet for lunch, they must come to Andrew's, where I sit with a half-written novel and an eighth cup of tea. There I remain, stubborn and despot. I will not venture away from that roaring of buses and array of specials.

The greasy spoon is as English and comforting as an Indian takeaway before a bath, as dark and smelly as the London Underground, as entertaining as a scandal-high party. It beats any number of suspect coffee bars given to high stools, discomfort and pavement posing.

## Uh-oh! It's a boy versus girl thing

The students are starting to get up each other's noses. Who's to blame? Well, it's got to be *someone's* fault... By Cayte Williams



ROBBIE  
studying  
economics



LEONA  
was studying  
maths



DAVID  
studying  
management



IAN  
studying  
geography



TASH  
studying  
management



ALISTAIR  
studying  
management



ROSIE  
studying  
French

IT'S THE Easter break for the students. At least they'll be getting three weeks of holidays - valuable time when they can study for exams and calm down after a fraught couple of weeks in the house. Leona's gone to Liverpool to visit an ex-boyfriend, Tasha's gone home to her family and Ian's heading off to his home town of Leeds.

There has been tension at home. Rosie is furious with Ian for slugging her off (he called her opinionated and narrow-minded) and has gone back to her parents in London until it's time to go back to college. "I want to spend as long as I can out of that house," she says.

"Ian calls me narrow-minded," she explains, "but I'm only like that about him because I've given him so many chances. He's always stressed! Either it's the stress of

girlfriends or work, but he works no harder than anyone else, and suddenly he'll just flip out and start yelling at people."

Ian seems to have a short fuse, and one person who got burned was Rachel, who moved out a month ago. When she was living with him they had a huge argument and she took her grievances to the landlord.

"I found out from him last week that Rachel went around to see him crying her eyes out," says Ian. "She was trying to get me evicted, but the landlord told her to talk to an official person at the university." The problem was that Ian and Rachel both have strong opinions and this was bound to lead to trouble. "She was always trying to cause arguments all the time, trying to make herself bigger than she was," insists Ian. "She always wanted to get

### THIS STUDENT LIFE



EASTER BREAK,  
WEEK 12 AT THE  
MANCHESTER  
STUDENT HOUSE

recognised by arguing all the time." Even the girls, who always got on with Rachel and would probably disagree with that pronouncement,

were surprised by her reaction. "Ian came to us for advice and we tried to help him," says Rosie. "It was really unfair what Rachel did, but he needs something to stop him from freaking out on people. He has big angry rows with people and he calls them names. He said some dreadful things to Rachel." Rosie feels that she's tried to help Ian through a problem, only for him to slag her off, and she's had enough. "I couldn't care any more what he thinks of me," she sighs. "I would never say openly what I think of him. I just couldn't care less."

But if Rosie thought she'd get any support from the boys, she was mistaken. She finds it particularly irritating that the boys all protect each other whenever there are any problems in the house. "They won't say a word against each other," she

says. "David and Alistair are really good to live with but they don't say anything about another bloke. Robbie is stuck in the middle (he lives on the first floor with the girls, while the other boys live on the ground floor) but he knows Ian better than anyone else and he wouldn't agree with me even if he knew all the things I've said about him were true."

While the girls try to muck in with the boys, Rosie reckons the boys don't make too much of an effort. "When two of them burst in on Leona in the shower she was really upset, and they were apologetic," recalls Rosie. "But it turned into a war for a week, with food fights and arguments. I don't understand why they have to make everything a boy versus girl thing, but they do."

David, meanwhile, is trying to be

diplomatic about Ian. "There was only one big argument between him and Rachel," he explains. "There was always tension between those two. It just built up and blew out." So what was the problem? "Ian's from Yorkshire and Rachel was brought up down south," continues Dave. "I suppose Ian's a working-class lad and Rachel was more arty. Ian wouldn't take any pretension." So what does he think about Ian's clash with Rosie? "I don't want to say anything to get my balls chopped off," he replies.

So is Ian really this terrible creature who made Rachel cry? "I just get on with a certain type of person," he says, "and you either like me or you don't. That's the way I am; I don't like trying to get people to like me."



# French without tears

He's the soap star who won't talk to the tabloids but, as he returns to the stage, Michael French speaks exclusively to David Benedict

**E**astEnders has always been good at exits. Tear-stained episodes are built around the farewells of well-loved characters who are granted one last lingering pan round beloved Albert Square and a taxi in which to drive up west and away. As the car drives off they stare out of the back window, the cast waves and a nation mourns.

But the departure of handsome, dangerous David Wicks a couple of years ago was something else. Less lump-in-the-throat, this was heart-in-the-mouth stuff. In plot terms, push had come to shove, and then some. In the breathless run-up to his exit, he and Carol Jackson (Lindsay Coulson) had a succession of scenes of snatched intimacy and spiralling desperation that glued millions to their screens and made huge demands of the two actors. This they have been a soap but it was seriously good acting, rivaling the now legendary "High Noon" at the Queen Vic between Angie and Dirty Den.

Cut forward two years. Tomorrow night, Michael French will prove that, contrary to popular belief, there's life beyond Albert Square when he opens in *Sacred Heart*, a new play by Mick Mahoney at London's tiny Royal Court Upstairs. Number-crunching TV executives must be puzzled. I mean, why would anyone exchange an audience of approximately a third of the nation for the 100 or so people a night who will see him on stage?

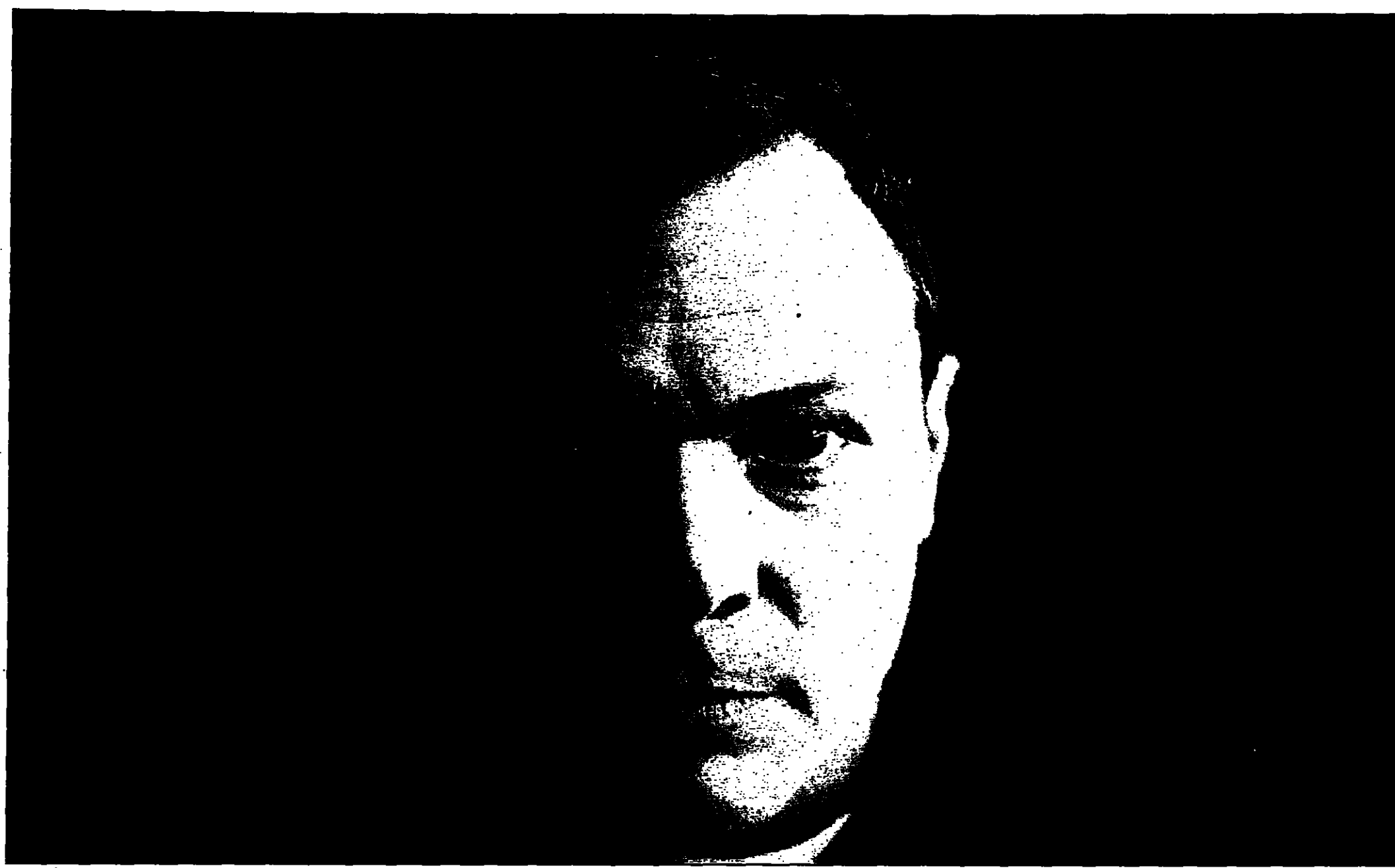
The chances of anyone finding out the answer to that are reckoned to be beyond slim. As any BBC publicist will tell you, Michael French doesn't give interviews. Hardly surprising when you know that three years ago he woke up to find himself "outed". The tabloid version of what he right, my considered to be his private life was splashed across the Sunday papers. Many actors continue to dedicate themselves tirelessly to avoiding anonymity, but understandably this one has politely, but assiduously, shunned the media circus.

So, having agreed to make an exception to his own rule, he's more than a little wary. And it's not just the business of privacy. He is clearly daunted by interviews. "I read them afterwards and always think 'Why didn't I say it like that?'" he explains, his wide, open face clouded with worry.

Yet the fact that he's willing to give up an hour between rehearsals indicates a change of heart. He puts it down to two reasons. Working with the director Edward Hall and fellow actors Doon Mackichan, Cecilia Noble and Ewan Stewart has engendered a growing feeling of self-confidence. Even more important, he's excited by the play.

*Sacred Heart* is a slice-of-life drama about four former friends who meet up after 18 years in the soon-to-be-turned-down Sacred Heart hall of their youth. Formerly hidden feelings return to trouble a seemingly serene present, and jealousies resurface from beneath the waves of the past.

"There's a lot I identify with in the role," French says, warily. His character, Jerry, is a working-class, knockabout adolescent made good, a success story with wide-boy tendencies, who sports smart suits and is used to manipulating situations for his own ends. Although the surface of the char-



Sacred art: Actors will always bollocks on about things. I think the best thing to do is get on with it: do it and go home

Neville Elder

acter strikes home - "I am of that age and sort of that class", he observes - there's a deeper chord in the line where Jerry is referred to as "the shadow".

"Being in the shadows means you stand back and watch things. I think I've always been one of those people. I don't go to pubs very often with friends. When I do, I'll let my hair down and have fun, but really I'm happier sitting back as an observer."

So, hardly the smooth-talking bit of rough we've come to know and love. That this should come as a surprise is, of course, absurd, but audiences all too ready to blur the distinction between actors and roles. This reached an alarming apogee when Michael Greco - the actor who plays Tiffany's would-be boyfriend Beppe in *EastEnders* - was hospitalised after being beaten up by thugs who felt he (or, rather, his character) shouldn't have been messing with Grant Mitchell's missus. French's screen persona is undoubtedly cocksure, toying with Cindy Beale or any of the other

Walford women, or playing the driven, sex-on-legs surgeon in the successful *Casualty* spin-off *Holby City*, but it is acting.

It's an achievement of which French is justifiably proud. "I didn't go to college to train and I don't come from an acting family. I sang a lot when I was younger and loved communicating through song and dance." He searches for the thought. "I think I knew I expressed myself better through a character. And it became a job."

The flip side of soap-stardom is that it produces collective memory loss. Nobody imagines these actors have ever worked before. So before anyone gets carried away into thinking that French is gracing the stage with his theatrical debut, let's set the record straight. Far from frequenting the dole office before being whisked off to Walford, French was singing his heart out.

His first job was in *Godspell*. He graduated to playing the lead in the last London revival of *West Side Story* and was 10 months into his contract as Javert, one of

the leads in *Les Misérables*, when the call came from the BBC in 1993.

"I was diabolical when I started," he laughs, "but doing it week in, week out, you can't fail to improve." As his character grew more intense, so did the pressure. "I was in every episode - they call them trios - every week for what seemed like an eternity. But the busier I was, the happier I was. I couldn't get enough of it."

Shooting 80 minutes of television every week means that rehearsals are pared down to a minimum. "The rehearsal calls are really just a few minutes to give the cameraman the opportunity to line up the shot and for the director to say 'Walk to that mark, stand there and do that'."

"Now, if you want to be treated like that then that's fine. I never did. I did all my rehearsals at home. I made sure I knew my lines and exactly what I wanted to do and if things didn't suit me I said it."

"Sometimes I was right, sometimes not, but after a couple of years people knew to

expect a little bit of confrontation."

Upon leaving, he was genuinely shocked at how much work he was offered. "Overwhelming, really. And I obviously wasn't ready for it," he adds, soberly. But out of that confusion came *Holby City*. He's a little crestfallen when I say I caught only the first episode. "I got much better towards the end and I don't care if you put that."

Ironically, he has put off returning to theatre because of his potential box-office power. Although he's been keen to flex his theatre muscles, there were problems in being so recognisable. "It brings with it a certain amount of paranoia. You think, 'Why do they want me in a show? Is it for the right reason?' Here, I feel they picked me because I'm the right man for the job."

Tabloid editors no doubt justified their front-page splash on the grounds that part of that job is allowing the public to see the man behind the image. Surely the unwelcome exposure was upsetting? He sighs. "I laughed about it. I put it in the bin

and I've never thought about it since. Honestly, people made such a fuss about it but have I ever publicly responded to it? No. If I wish to have a relationship with someone, that's private and it always will be. They can write what they like. My job is to act, to entertain, that's it. I had good reviews, I knew I was valued, end of story."

Fair enough, but I don't know whether I'm convinced by this bullish self-assurance. It doesn't quite marry with the struggle for self-confidence that underpins so much of his story. He's certainly apprehensive about the opening night after a relatively swift rehearsal period, but he remains refreshingly down-to-earth about it.

"You can sometimes have too much time. Actors will always bollocks on about things. I think the best thing to do is get on with it: do it and go home." As the man said, it's just a job.

*"Sacred Heart" is at the Royal Court Upstairs at the Ambassadors (0171-565 5000)*

## Time to kiss and make-up again

**OLD MEN** have been known to do funny things to attract the attention of young women. Some parade their greying hair as signifiers of experience and wisdom. Others squeeze themselves into undersized jeans and hard sweaters to recapture lost youth. But Kiss hero Gene Simmons, notorious seducer of more than 4,000 women, has found the answer. It seems that young girls cannot resist a 52-year-old man in 6-inch platform boots, make-up and a massive, glittering cuspidee.

In 1977, the heavily painted Kiss were considered the most popular rock group in America. They suffered a dip during the

**POP**  
KISS  
WEMBLEY ARENA,  
LONDON

Eighties after sacking two members and adopting a disturbingly "natural" look. But now the classic Kiss line-up has returned, complete with original guitarist, Ace Frehley, and drummer Peter Dinklage, together with a whole department store's worth of greasepaint.

In accordance with the Seventies nostalgia, the band have also reverted to the days of the out-and-out stadium show. Last Thursday, we witnessed levi-

tating stages, 3D video screens, rocket-launching guitars and a eyebrow-singeing pyrotechnic show, not to mention the obligatory smoke machines, fireworks and rallying cries of "You wanna rock?". With titles like "Love Gun" and "Calling Dr Love", Kiss's music may be ludicrously overblown shock-rock, but this band know how to give fans their money's worth.

For all their macho posturing, Kiss also unveiled a curiously homo-erotic disposition. Not only do these behemoths of soft rock provide legions of grown men with the opportunity to play dress-up, but singer Paul Stanley came across like

a seasoned drag queen, miming about the stage with his buttocks clenched, his lips pursed and tossing his hair from side to side. As he ripped off his shirt, hundreds in the audience gleefully ripped off theirs, and when he threatened to climb into the crowd, you feared for his safety in the sea of excitable, semi-naked men. Instead, he took a trapeze to a platform in the middle of the crowd where fans could only stroke his boots.

There was no doubt about Gene Simmons' manhood. He arrived on stage like an aged warlock in thick armour plating, thigh-high boots and glistening war-paint. His eyes gleamed



Gene Simmons and notoriously long tongue flicked as he lumbered about like a randy Stegosaurus. His big moment came when he was hoisted into the air

spewing bucketsful of blood - who could resist?

The years have not been so kind to Frehley, whose heavy metal grimaces seemed prompted by his gasping for breath. After his second solo, his inch-thick slap took on the appearance of a death mask. But since Kiss have remained unsurpassed in the realms of stadium rock, it makes no odds that they sometimes look knackered. It is their unwavering belief in their rock'n'roll supremacy that has ensured success, and you imagine that even from the grave they will find ways to rock.

FIONA STURGES

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PAGES 15-16

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**No bum notes on Choros line**  
**DANCE**  
**CHOROS**  
HIPPODROME  
BIRMINGHAM  
WHEN DAVID Bintley created *Choros* at Sadler's Wells in 1983 he was thought to be giving the Royal Ballet dancers a hard time by the demands he made on their technique. But now that it has been revived by the company he currently directs, Birmingham Royal Ballet, the easy, handsome way they do it shows the strength of the present dancers. And if you want evidence of their versatility, note that only a few days before tackling this pure dance piece they looked equally good in a contrasted Bintley ballet, *Hobson's Choice*, where everything hinges on plot and character. *Hobson* is described by Bintley as "an English ballet", with much justice considering the subject, steps and style. In *Choros*, the inspiration is officially ancient Greece, but from what I read about dances in the old comedies and even tragedies it may be just as well that this is not interpreted too strictly. Accounts of nude boys, of girls vying to display the prettiest buttocks, and words such as "lewd", "suggestive" and "lascivious", occur in the most scholarly volumes. Well, there's none of that in *Choros*, and although historical forms dictate the ballet's arrangement into a sequence of contrasted episodes, the real subject is simply the joy of dancing, expressed in a wide variety of mood and pace. Terry Bartlett's simple, elegant designs set the dancers within a framework of climbing bars, as in a gymnasium, and his figure-hugging costumes have hints of athleticism. This is especially apt in Chi Cao's lithe, Pyrrhic solo, where he may be at different moments a discus thrower or a warrior with a shield; also in the comic episode Kordax, where Dorcas Walters through her nimble speed has to outwit three flamboyantly self-absorbed young men. In the section called *Emmeleia*, evoking the dances from the old tragedies, the bars around the stage take on a new function as those of a ballet studio, suggesting that their daily exercises are cause enough of grief for the dancers - except that the routines quickly take on a glow of pleasure, at least for us watching. *Choros* is the oldest of his own works which Bintley has remounted, and its varied score by Aubrey Meyer was the first that he had specially written - a practice that deserves to be more widely followed by choreographers to keep ballet lively and influential among its sister arts.

JOHN PERCIVAL

# Don't ask 'why', ask 'how'

Richard Deacon's sculptures elude identification – but is a return to mystery in modern art such a bad thing? By Tom Lubbock

I want you to imagine that I'm a Venusian. I've just got out of my rocket. I can speak English. And I'd like you to try to explain to me how to tie a shoelace. OK? You know the kind of game – one of those tests for I'm not sure what. We art critics are set them all the time. We're always finding ourselves having to describe things that are, for all practical purposes, indescribable. We have a go. But we know that if our words do manage to instil an accurate picture in a reader's mind's eye, it's the merest fluke.

Often this doesn't much matter. The reader can get by without a total visualisation of the object in question. A rough idea will do. What's needed is the sort of account that conveys effects, feelings, the experience, the notion, the sense. Points can be made effectively, even when the look of the thing itself remains quite vague.

But what if there isn't really a sense? At the Liverpool Tate Gallery at the moment you can see sculptures by Richard Deacon. They come with the overall title *New World Order*, a form of words that seems too burdened with ironies – remember the last war but one? – to be useful. And I may as well admit at the outset that I feel pretty blank about these works; don't hate them by any means, wouldn't try to step in if I heard somebody praising them, am perfectly content to share a planet with them and with their fans; just don't get it. So I'm going to have to describe them. Damn.

Deacon is about 50. He was one of those sculptors who – as the phrase is – came to prominence in the Eighties, part of a movement that was known, engagingly, as the New British Sculpture. It included such others as Tony Cragg and Bill Woodrow. It was New because, after a stretch of dominance by conceptual and performance work, it put the focus back on objects.

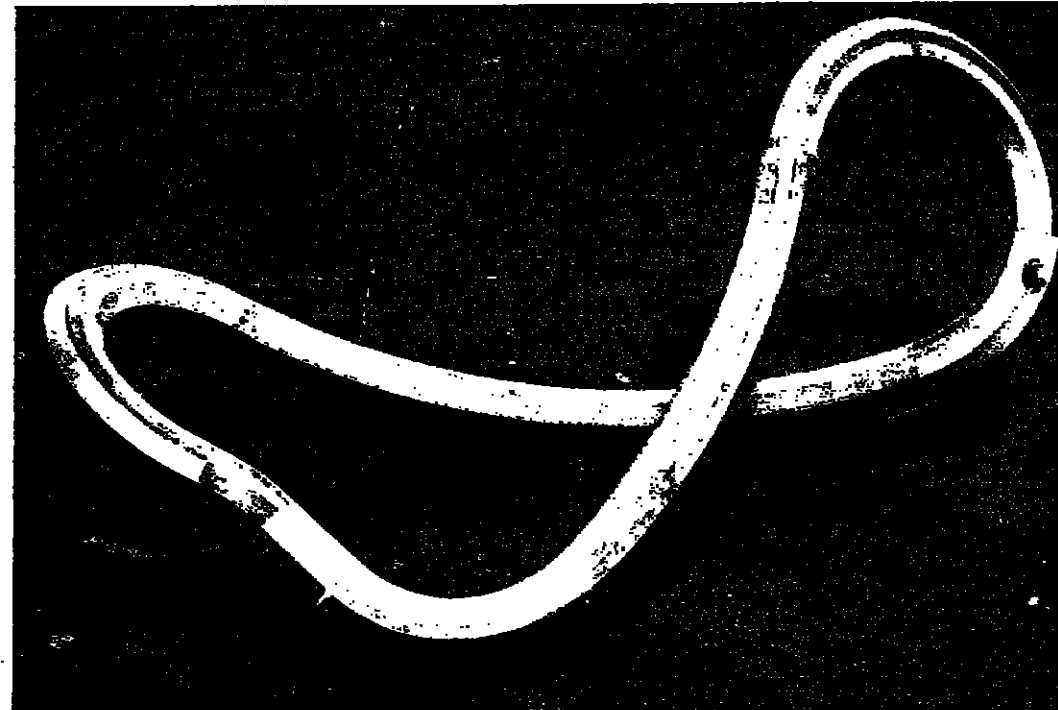
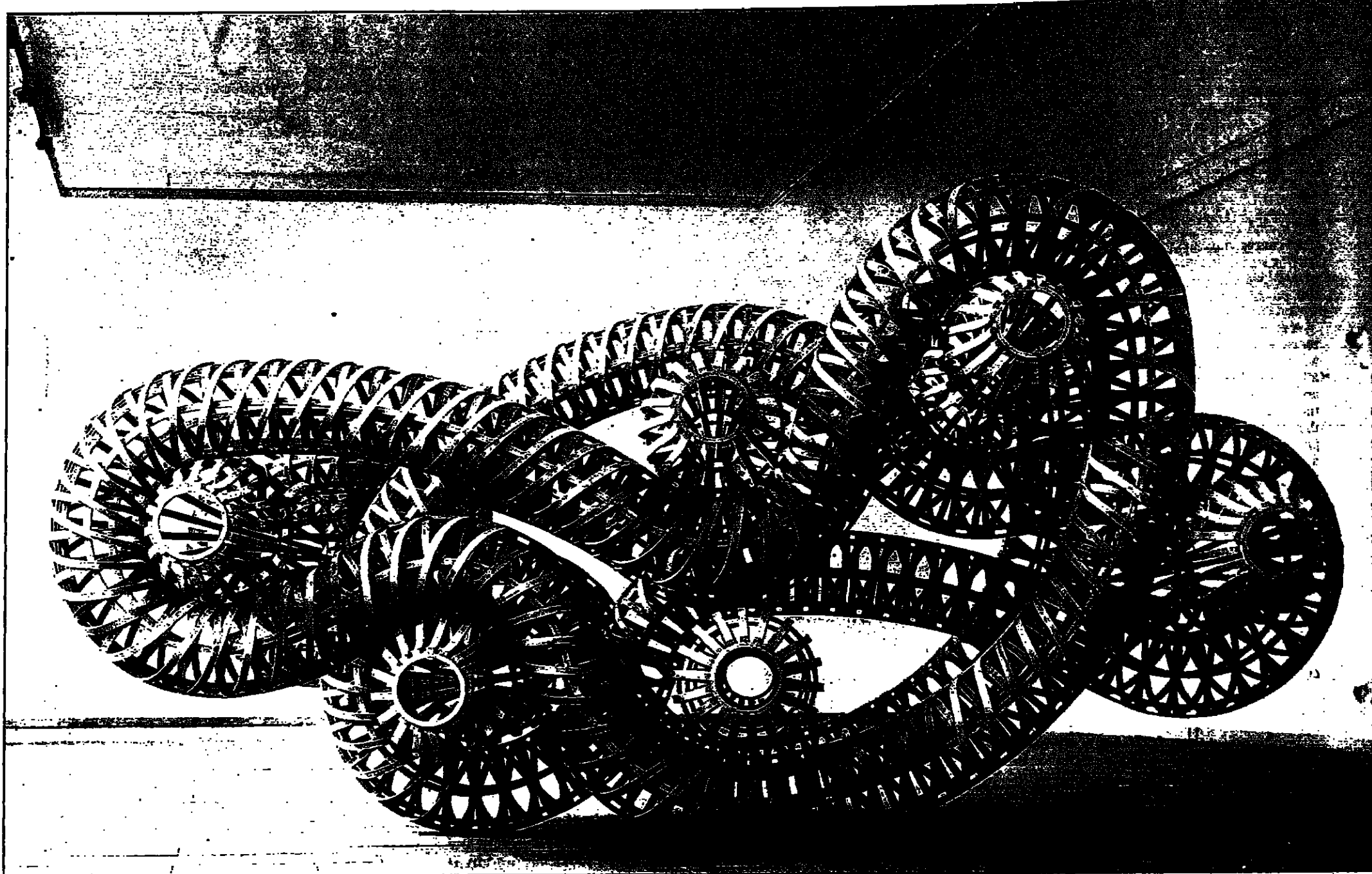
Deacon made his mark then chiefly with lumbering 3-D collages of industrial stuffs, and large, lumpy bows of plywood. Wood, metal and textile were notable ingredients. There were hints of the figurative. The show in Liverpool is all from the Nineties. The artist is still operating as a – his word – "fabricator". The leading materials now are wood and plastic. The figurative has gone. I'm not doing very well, am I?

Some basic features. Deacon has never much used straight edges. His shapes are curvy or bobbly. The curvaceousness suggests, not living forms, more a Scalextric track. The bobbiness is similar to that when something has been heated up and expanded irregularly. These objects emphasise their constructedness. They are the opposite of seamless. Their joints are visible. If they're glued together, too much glue is applied, and it seeps out. If there's a bolt connection, it's over-bolting.

But often they have to be described in negatives. You wouldn't exactly call them abstract. They're too bitty to become pure forms; the identity of their constituent materials is too obtrusive. But you wouldn't call them weird or jokey objects either. They don't have explicit enough real-world associations to arouse that sort of reaction.

Here, they come in three sizes. There are some large, monumental wooden constructions – tubes of open latticework, kind of lobster-pot oesophaguses, that writhe and wind in convoluted loops. There are smaller, standing-up, roughly person-sized pieces, made of bent wood, and moulded transparent plastic, and rubber, and cardboard; but as for their shapes, my descriptive powers fail. And then there are objects smaller still, sitting around on the floor; blobs and flats and tube-y and boxy things and – leave alone delineate – with a few of them I couldn't even guess what they were made of, or whether they would be solid or squashy or hollow to the touch. At any rate, I touched one, and it wasn't at all what I expected.

Now, there were definitely moments when I thought "This is all going to come alive". The first sight is very exciting, when you glimpse one of those gigantic wooden writhers through a doorway, and it seems to promise something of overwhelming size and complexity (though it turns out this promise was mainly a glimpse effect). And another lumpy one called *Lacoon* is good



Top: 'What Could Make Me Feel This Way A' (1993), wood with glue, screw and cable wire; above left, 'Almost Beautiful' (1994); above right, 'Seven' (1997)

to look at, because its convolutions seem to be at the very limit of what you can get your mind round – ie you can just about work out that it doesn't contain a knot (though I guess someone with high spatial skills might realise this at once).

And there are nice opportunities for the tactile imagination, especially some pieces of smooth, polished wood. There's one which is rather like the lid of an old loo seat that's been buffed and buffed to an almost fragile thinness, and lies on the floor as if it were a pool of spilt water.

But I think I liked that one just because it had a metaphorical charge. And probably what one should look for in Deacon's work is the precise opposite – the way it so cleverly

eludes any kind of identification, the way it produces objects that don't quite chime and don't quite jar; that stand there, as plausible but as yet unrecruited candidates for the world.

Which, as an idea, sounds fine, doesn't it? And I got that feeling off one piece at least, something called *Foot* (quite simple, futile to try and evoke). But mostly the impression was more like this. Here's this guy in his enormous studio, filled with all kinds of collected stuff and with manufacturing facilities ready to hand. Sometimes he has a big idea. But mainly he's kind of pottering, putting a and b together, trying out process x on material y, thinking that's quite interesting, and then noticing some

accidental by-product on the floor, and thinking that's quite interesting, too.

As an embodiment of the act of making and the spirit of invention, Deacon's work is exemplary – presumably inspiring, also. It would be the ideal show to take a school art class round. The objects are excellent drawing-models. They're excellent incentives to creativity. They would be just the thing for design students, as well. They're like exercises that ask to be developed, incorporated, taken up and on somewhere. Many of the little things are in a series called "Art for Other People", and I think that's what it means: for further use.

All the stress is on the how. Perhaps it's a generational thing to find that not

enough. Certainly, this is work that makes you feel the passage of time and taste, and how different Eighties sculpture was from what's come to prominence in the Nineties. The creative agenda is quite changed. Now it's hot on what's and why's. It's all a matter of knowing exactly what you're up to, articulate meanings, explicit real-world references. You may get a bit of mystery, but that's an extra. And in those terms, Deacon's work looks rather beached. What's it about? Well, er, not quite the right question, not if you expect it to be answered anyway; rather than just savoured.

And no doubt with the British art of the Nineties, things have swung too far into articulacy. You get to a point where works

hardly need to be seen or made at all, as a full description is both perfectly feasible and all you need; and where artists are positively encouraged to talk and think in drones from a cultural studies department. There's a strong case for not knowing too clearly what you're up to. I note that the Tate's accompanying Deacon literature is almost completely meaningless. I don't mean jargonised, I mean as artspeak used to be – without any literal sense whatever. At the present moment, that's quite an encouraging sign.

*'Richard Deacon: New World Order', Tate Gallery, Albert Dock, Liverpool. Until 16 May. Closed Mon (0151-709 3223)*

## Humour without the sting

IN THE world of Chris Orr, all is not what it seems. A hasty glance tends to conjure up a misleading image of a nostalgic England of the Fifties: all innocence, bright picture-book colours and smiling, happy families.

But don't be fooled – disaster and unsettling irregularities lurk at every turn.

This is narrative art in which the image draws the viewer into action-packed scenes teeming with life, from an imagination that has given itself free rein. Planes plummet to earth, nannies push their charges into lakes, women gleefully expose themselves, and couples copulate in the wings.

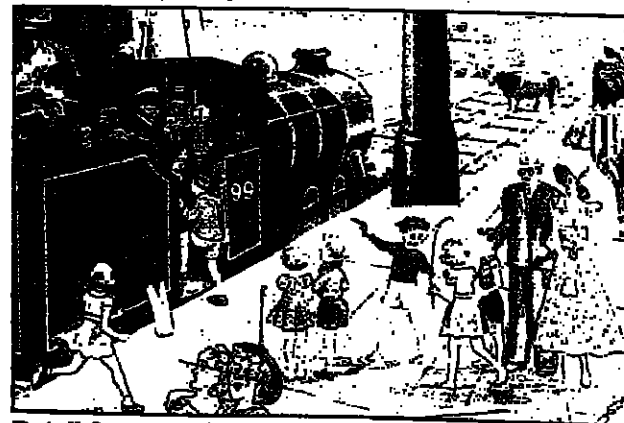
Orr is drawing on childhood memories filled with steam trains, tea rooms, days spent at the seaside and trips to the fun-fair, all of which are heavily overlaid with naughty school-

**REVIEW**  
CHRIS ORR  
JILL GEORGE GALLERY  
LONDON

boy humour. His chaotic, overcrowded depictions of human interaction recall the work of William Hogarth, though Orr is indulgent towards his subjects and seems to accept them warts and all.

Born in Islington, London, in 1943, Orr is primarily a print-maker, although he also draws and paints. When he first turned to print-making, he says: "There began the outpouring of my views of a flawed and wonky world. I celebrated the disorganised through an organised medium."

His *Happy Days* drawing, with added, vibrant water-colour, is indeed a flawed and



Detail from 'Tanby', 1998

wonky world, in which subversion is rife. The colour and hectic movement of a fun-fair have all been captured, but there's little fun to be had. The back carriages on the roller-coaster have detached themselves from the track, flinging

the passengers into the air; the merry-go-round is swirling at such a speed that the horses fly out horizontally, with one breaking free, hurtling off on a course of destruction, and a distant better-sheltered abandons its customers to the unfriendly waters

of a lake where hire boats are at various stages of capsizing, except for one which holds an indifferent, cupulating couple. A prostrate body lies, ignored, beside the shooting range.

However often you return to this work, it seems there is always something disturbing that you have previously missed.

The artist's best-selling work by far is what he calls his poster, which has sold more than 10,000 copies to date. It is an A to Z that has allowed him to indulge his scatological humour to the full: analpoo, beer, smells, cat's nasties and so on. This is humour without stinging in the tail.

KATE MUKHALI

*Happy Days*, paintings, drawings and prints by Chris Orr at Jill George Gallery, 38 Leighton Street, London W1 (0171-439 7349) until 16 April

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JP 11/15/99



# HEALTH

You strap them on to a wound, then wait for them to eat the bacteria. Doctors swear by it. So do patients. By Roger Dobson

## There's a bug in my bandage

The new wound dressing that's just been put on to David Powell's foot appears to be moving. It's not a vigorous kind of motion, just an occasional rise and fall, almost as if a heaving mass of unseen creatures were moving about beneath that sterile white bandage.

Of course, it could all be in the mind, a trick of the imagination fuelled only a few moments ago by the sight of several dozen tiny maggots being poured on to the wound and covered with that dressing.

And, according to Dr Steve Thomas, any movement is indeed down to an over-working imagination. These are not, after all, the full-size maggots that squirm around in an angler's bait can, and anyway the 400 or so patients who have so far felt their healing touch have never had any problems. In fact, most of them report no sensation at all, not even a tickling as the grubs go about their work. Their only concern is whether maggot therapy works, and it does.

Thanks to Dr Thomas, maggots like these, the larva of the greenbottle fly, are

*Most people report no sensation at all, not even a tickling, as the grubs go about their work*

making an unlikely comeback in modern medicine, saving limbs, fighting infection, killing bacteria and replacing antibiotics. He and his team have already supplied more than 400 other centres with 5,000 containers of maggots.

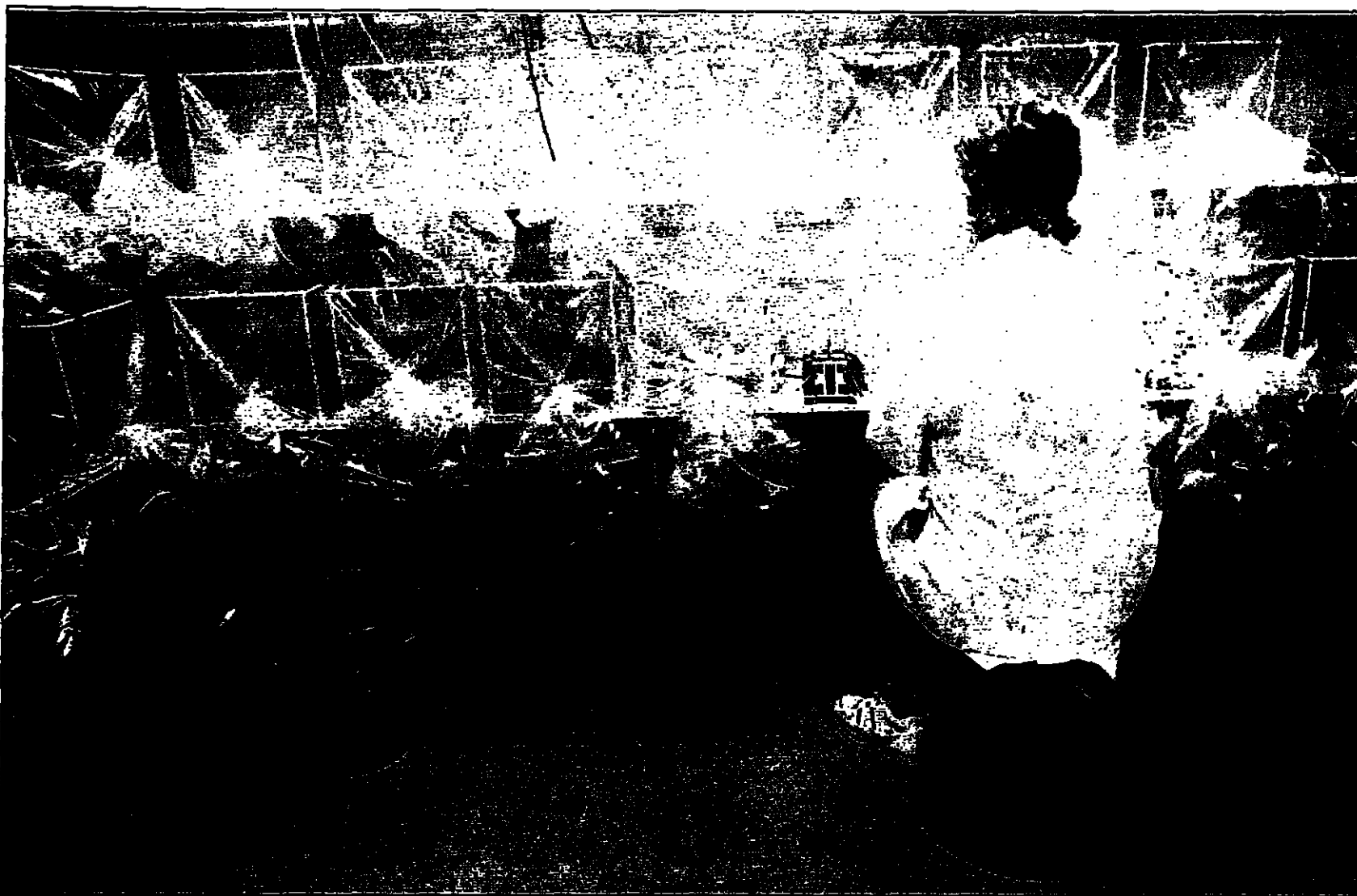
It has been known for many decades that maggots can clean wounds, but when high-tech medicine arrived most physicians - and their patients - opted for more fastidious ways of cleaning away dead tissue and getting rid of bacteria.

However, researchers have now discovered that maggots not only clean wounds highly efficiently, they also lay down their own natural antibiotics. And with increasing concern in the medical establishment about overuse of antibiotics, and the arrival of antibiotic-resistant bugs, maggots are suddenly back in fashion as a highly effective therapy.

The maggots bred by Dr Thomas and his team at the bio-surgical research unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Glamorgan have already been successfully used on scores of patients, including a handful of people infected with the killer bacterium MRSA, which is resistant to most antibiotics.

So successful has the re-introduction of the creatures been that Dr Thomas has now produced a million of them at his laboratory in South Wales, where it all began three years ago.

"I had for a long time been interested in using maggots in wounds, but the spur



Maggots are bred at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend (above and below right). So far, 5,000 containers of the larva have been supplied to 400 other centres where they are used to clean wounds, such as those suffered by David Powell (below left) **Rob Stratton**



was when I heard someone talking about the theoretical concept of it all," he explains. "I decided to give it a go and we set up in a tiny room in the laboratory producing a small number of flies. We refined the method of breeding them and produced sterile eggs and eventually we got the go-ahead to use them on patients."

The idea behind using maggots is quite simple - they eat bacteria. Give a maggot

a meal of bugs and it will wipe the plate clean. But latest research suggests that they do much more than that, and that they work in a number of distinct ways to treat infection when they are placed on a wound.

First, bacteria act as biological chemical factories turning out potent enzymes which break down the dead tissue in the wound. Then they eat the bacteria and excrete them as dead material. Thirdly, they

produce their own antibiotic and anti-septic materials in their secretions, which cleanse the area. Fourthly, they change the acidity of the wound area so that bacteria trying to colonise the wound find it difficult to grow. Growth-promoting agents are also detected in the secretions of the maggots, which may speed up the rate of recovery.

"We know that all sorts of things are

going on," says Dr Thomas. "We know they clean the wound and that they are multifunctional, but the precise mechanism by which the maggots kill bacteria is not fully understood. We now believe that it may include the production of natural antibiotics."

In practice the maggots have been used for treating infected tissue, open wounds that may in some cases have been colonised with antibiotic-resistant bugs.

The sterile maggots, which are bred in the laboratory at Bridgend, are applied from a tube to the wound at the rate of about 10 per square centimetre. Tape applied to the surrounding healthy skin stops them from getting on to the surrounding tissue, and a mesh covering acts like a cage to keep them focused on the wound itself.

They are then left to work on the affected area for three days, after which they are removed and destroyed along with the bandages. For patients such as 37-year-old David Powell, the maggots have proved superior to other forms of treatment. He suffers from a loss of sensation in his skin. That means that injuries can occur and deteriorate without his getting the normal warning sign of pain.

"I had a piece of grit in a shoe and it caused a very serious wound before I realised what had happened," he recalls. "Because there is no sensation you don't know what is going on and it is difficult to keep track of."

"I was a bit surprised when they suggested maggots, but it has worked for me. I think it was a choice between having the

*'I think it was a choice of having the maggots on or having the foot off. It was that serious'*

maggots on or having the foot off, it was that serious. I got the dressing changed three times a week, and at the moment everything is fine."

Dr Thomas says the centre has had a number of similar cases where limbs have been saved. "It is a very successful treatment. It has often been used as a treatment of last resort, so the results are excellent given that in some cases the patients may have been a day away from losing a limb. We have shown that maggots can succeed when the chances of success are otherwise quite tiny."

He and his colleagues also believe that maggots will have a big role to play in combating antibiotic-resistant organisms such as MRSA. "We would like to see the earlier use of maggots to clean up problematic or infected wounds, and that in many cases would obviate the need for other treatment," he says.

But if maggots are to become a more general treatment, they will need to be used in routine wounds and not kept as a treatment of last resort, and that means convincing patients that they are the best option available.

Not, of course, that there is a problem in this respect. Only three patients so far are known to have turned the idea down when it has been put to them, and, as Dr Thomas points out, it's safe, highly efficient and gives excellent results. The patients feel nothing - and the bandage really doesn't move.

## Choosing not to go gently

FOR ABOUT the first 20 years of my adult life I was an uncritical supporter of euthanasia. Then I read a report that changed my view. It pointed out what I still consider to be a key fact in the debate: opinion polls show that support for euthanasia declines with advancing age.

In other words, as death approaches, the prospect of being dispatched simply, easily and without pain loses rather than gains in appeal. The very people whom euthanasia is intended to benefit show least support for it.

I offer this as a general observation, not a specific comment on the activities of Dr Jack Kevorkian, who is due to be sentenced in the US this week after being found guilty of second degree murder, or those of Dr Ken Taylor, found guilty by the General Medical Council last week of starving a stroke patient to death. I am not against euthanasia and I recognise that each case must be judged on its merits.

But the decline in support for the practice as the prospect of encountering it draws nearer seems to me to demand attention. At first sight, it seems strange. Surely, you might think, advancing age and disability would increase people's enthusiasm for euthanasia. Who, after all, would choose to spend their last days disabled, bed-ridden or incapable?

The surprising answer is: most people. When the light is dying, very few go gently or willingly into the night. They hang on, grimly if necessary, to the last little drop of life.

### HEALTH CHECK



**JEREMY LAURANCE**

My father had a horror of ending his days as an invalid. He suffered from heart disease and would remark soto voce whenever we visited anyone who happened to be incapacitated: "Don't, for goodness sake, let me end up like that."

Yet when the end came he was ready to have kidney dialysis in the hope that it would buy him a few more days or weeks of life, even confined to a hospital bed. He died before the machine could be rigged up but, had he lived, those few extra hours or days might have provided him with the opportunity for a reckoning, a saying of goodbyes.

A more striking example was provided by the experience of my sister-in-law's father, a man of immense energy who found himself in his eighties totally incapacitated by a creeping lung disorder that led to growing breathlessness.



**Dr Jack Kevorkian, found guilty of second-degree murder AP**

He had been a public servant, and in retirement took up the violin, travelled all over the world living in a camper van, and served on a clutch of voluntary bodies. In the last year of his life he was virtually bed-ridden, sustained only by a constant supply of oxygen piped up his nose.

To many younger, healthier people, that might have seemed a fate worse than death. There were, indeed, family discussions about what should be done. But, to general astonishment, the old man adjusted to his new condition better than anyone had dreamed possible by employing his niece to record his memoirs. They spent hundreds of hours, spread over weeks and months, recalling the details of the family's history. It was a lesson to the rest of us that life can grow more, not less, precious as it dwindles.

The presence of pain, of course,

would have altered the picture utterly. But is pain sufficient reason for ending a life? The official view, as put by the British Medical Association (BMA), is that there is no pain or suffering so great that it cannot be controlled with modern treatments, hence there should be no cause to end life prematurely.

A doctor who prescribes steadily increasing doses of morphine to ease pain in the knowledge that this will shorten life is acting within the law, provided the intention is to relieve suffering. But if he says that the intention is to end life, he has crossed a legal boundary and put himself at risk of arrest and prosecution. The BMA believes that this legal distinction must be upheld to maintain the trust that patients have in their doctors. Otherwise, doctors may come to be seen as agents of death. I think the BMA is right.

## I fainted on the loo

I AM a 57-year-old man who has recently been diagnosed with micriturion syncope. On several occasions I have collapsed in the middle of the night while standing at the toilet emptying my bladder. The first time, I hit my head quite badly on the lavatory bowl. I'm told this is not a serious condition, but it seems potentially quite dangerous to me. Can it be cured?

Micriturion syncope - fainting while you are having a pee - is caused by the sudden drop in blood pressure that occurs while your bladder is emptying. It is surprisingly common, although many men simply feel a bit dizzy and do not lose consciousness. As far as I am aware, it affects women only rarely, and this fact provides a clue about how to prevent it happening again.

When you get out of a warm bed, your circulatory system is in a relaxed state. As you stand up, your blood pressure is unable to readjust itself quickly enough to maintain a steady supply of blood to the brain. This, in combination with the physiological effect of a bladder contraction, causes you to become dizzy and lose consciousness. Women are not affected by this because they empty their bladders in the sitting position. I recommend that, in the middle of the night, you follow their example.

### A QUESTION OF HEALTH



**DR FRED KAVALIER**

MY ELDERLY mother takes four different kinds of tablets - two for her blood pressure, one to regulate her heartbeat, and aspirin. She gets repeat prescriptions each month, but it is not uncommon for the chemist to give her a new brand of tablet which is often a different size or colour. She finds this extremely confusing and sometimes mixes up her tablets. The chemist says he is unable to do anything about this, and the doctor says I should take it up with the chemist. Is there no way to stop this lunacy?

Your mother is a victim of generic prescribing. The doctor is prescribing the medications by their generic (chemical) name, and the chemist is entitled to dispense whatever brand he wishes. In practice, chemists change their suppliers

according to availability and price. Either ask the doctor to prescribe the tablets by brand name, or change to a chemist who will guarantee to supply the same brand each time. Another idea is to get your mother a Medidocs box (available from chemists for about £10). This has compartments into which you can put a whole week's supply of tablets, allowing your mother to take her pills at the right time without thinking about what colour they are.

HOW ACCURATE are home blood pressure monitors? There are lots of electronic monitors available - finger monitors, wrist monitors and upper arm monitors. Most have not been independently tested for accuracy and therefore cannot be recommended. The British Hypertension Society has validated the Omron HEM 705-CP monitor, and Omron also make other models that use the same scientific principle. Finger monitors may be less accurate than arm or wrist monitors.

Please send your questions to A Question of Health, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail to [health@independent.co.uk](mailto:health@independent.co.uk). Dr Kavalier regrets he is unable to respond personally to questions.

# MEDIA

The BBC's Robert Thirkell has managed to turn corporate coverage into entertaining television. By Jonathan Miller

## Why should business be a bore?

Ten years ago, in his blistering attack on Britain's television establishment at the Edinburgh Television Festival, Rupert Murdoch condemned the "anti-commercial attitudes" of British broadcasting. He accused programme-makers of reflecting contempt for money-making. The good and the great of broadcasting were contemptuous. "He would say that, wouldn't he," hissed one.

Looking back on the media tycoon's indictment, one senior BBC producer now offers a candid admission. "Murdoch was right," says Robert Thirkell, pausing as he puts the finishing touches to tomorrow night's concluding episode of the third series of the pioneering business programme, *Trouble at the Top* ("Too Many Cooks", broadcast on BBC 2 at 9.30pm).

The programme covers the

The notion that making money is interesting has become a hot idea

struggle of two businessmen to relaunch the ailing Pierre Victoire restaurant chain.

"What Murdoch said was true," he continues. "The attitude here was that business was intrinsically boring. The view of many producers was that they hadn't joined the BBC to make programmes about money. There was real disdain for the business of making money and things. The tradesmen were supposed to use their own entrance."

What a difference a decade makes. The notion that making money is not boring but in fact very interesting has become one of the hottest ideas in broadcasting, and not just at the BBC. Where once British viewers had to put up with little more than weary episodes of the *Money Programme*, with its warmed-over features from last month's business pages, today they are being bombarded with business news - enough, possibly, to satisfy even Rupert Murdoch.

For the obsessive there is a choice of two 24-hour business news channels (CNBC and Bloomberg). For the merely interested there is a vastly expanded role for business on Radio 4's extended *Today* programme. Sky News has established a respected business news unit headed by Michael Wilson and has given it plenty of air time. Business news is integral to the BBC's own



Robert Thirkell: prophet of a new kind of business television

News 24 channel. Even the *Money Programme*, long the BBC's sole concession to the world of commerce, has been relaunched with a new look and sharper stories.

Amidst all this, Thirkell has emerged as a prophet of a new kind of business television, of interest even to the normally indifferent. Producing a series of ably crafted films, Thirkell's achievement is to create business programmes full of passion, drama and human interest.

He has done this by working outside the normal BBC news and current affairs structure, under the aegis - of all things - of the BBC's science department, where he has become a hot property. He has been given his own unit, channel controllers besiege him for shows and he has a stack of résumés on his desk from aspiring programme-makers

who are eager to join his team.

Thirkell, a career BBC man, joined the corporation as a researcher and by 1985 had won his first producer credit with *Billion Dollar Day*, a look at the foreign exchange markets that told the story of currency trading. His big break was a couple of years later when he met John Harvey-Jones. It was the genesis of the Bafta Award-winning *Trouble at the Top* in which Sir John starred as the original company doctor. The first programme aired just a year after Murdoch launched his attack on BBC business coverage, and critics took note. Thirkell has not looked back.

Two series of *Trouble at the Top* led to the single programme, *Nightmare at Canary Wharf* (about the launch of cable channel LiveTV, complete with its news bunny and weather in

Norwegian), which in turn spawned *Trouble at the Top*. That then led to *Back to the Floor* (in which bosses returned to the shop floor for a week) and *Blood on the Carpet* (a series about business battles).

Among the memorable episodes of *Blood on the Carpet* was the one describing the confrontation between the hippie ice-cream-makers Ben & Jerry and Häagen-Dazs, then a division of the giant American food processor Pillsbury. As a narrative it was a David-versus-Goliath story, but along the way it managed to treat many of the serious business issues that face today's managers: the permissible limits of competition, the nature of branding, the importance of skilful public relations.

Last autumn Thirkell, by now a BBC high-flyer, spent six weeks on an advanced management course at

the Wharton business school in America. He has returned to a promotion running the corporation's new Business and Adventure Unit. The unit's name reflects Thirkell's belief that business is itself an adventure, and that business people make great television.

The separation from the day-to-day pressure of news coverage has given Thirkell space to develop some genuinely original ideas. Just a few months old, the unit already has 12 series in production. They include new series of *Trouble at the Top* and *Blood on the Carpet*, a third series of *Trouble at the Top* (in which Harvey-Jones returns 10 years later to companies he visited in the first series), and an ambitious look at the culture and practice of management consultancy, *Naked Work*.

He's also shooting a one-off series

on the struggle to build and launch the Millennium Dome, and a new series for next year, *Master Blasters*, about people who blow things up for a living.

Thirkell's programmes are hardly self-consciously didactic. They do not pause for lengthy exegeses on the theory of management or marketing. Instead, they concentrate on the individuals involved. If his work can be criticised, it is perhaps that he may sometimes be too sympathetic to his subjects. An episode of *Back to the Floor* last November, "Back on Site", offered a sympathetic portrait of Tony Pidgley, millionaire owner of the property developer Berkeley Homes. The portrait of Pidgley by Thirkell's unit was engaging but not entirely convincing; are we really to believe that from his position at the top of the company, Pidgley really

had so little idea of what his subordinates were up to? The viewer was left with the impression that the subject of the film was taking full advantage of the opportunity to present himself in the most favourable light.

Yet despite the typically rather gentle approach to his subjects, many of Thirkell's shows could well serve as model case studies for business school students, exposing the pressures on managers as they grapple with the relentless demands of suppliers, customers and staff.

Tomorrow night's episode of *Trouble at the Top* is typical of the breed. By now, most analysts who follow the catering industry already know about the ambitious launch and then the near collapse of the Pierre Victoire chain.

The restaurant franchise launched eight years ago and expanded rapidly, but others had similar ideas. Soon, there were bistro-concept restaurants on every corner. Suddenly, Pierre Victoire

The trick is to find a good story and let the business points make themselves

was in trouble. Franchises were struggling; many collapsed. Last summer Pierre Victoire went bust with debts of more than £10m.

Thirkell takes up the story as two of the former restaurateurs, Richard Willis and Simon Edwards, struggle to relaunch the company. The camera follows them from the kitchen of their restaurant in Edinburgh to grim meetings with shareholders and prospective employees. It is the authentic stuff of business. The pressure is unrelenting, the work unglamorous. By the end of the film, Richard and Simon have emerged as real heroes, and it would be a callous viewer who could walk away unimpressed by their pure grit and persistence.

The trick, says Thirkell, is to find a good story and let the business points make themselves. "It's all about narrative," Thirkell says. "You need a star character or a star subject. It's got to be more than just docu-soap."

What next for Thirkell? After a career as a hands-on programme-maker, he is now at risk of spending more time managing the projects of others than he does making programmes himself. In a corporation that faces plenty of business stresses of its own, perhaps there are bigger things in store?

Thirkell shakes his head. "I've already got the best job in TV," he says.

Phil Meech

## Taking a leaf out of Hollywood's book

British film-makers need to learn that great quality doesn't guarantee box-office success. By Darius Sanai

SO, AFTER nine months of tantrums, set disasters, budget overruns, irate screenwriters, extended theatricals, rain-soaked location work, cosy actors' huddles and editing-suite agony, you now have, in your hand, the finished copy of your clever and beautiful film, which should change the world.

The Hotel du Cap, Venice and even the Oscars beckon, but the basic issue is more mundane. How do you get as many people as possible to pay their £6, buy their giant bucket of Butterkist and settle down to watch?

This question was the subject of a seminar at Bafta's plush Piccadilly headquarters last week, as a few of the most eminent figures in film marketing shared their secrets with many of the country's producers and directors.

In the current climate, the questions being posed and answered were serious ones. A resurgent British film industry is facing unprecedented competition for its releases, with more than 1,000 films produced every year in America and the EU. Hollywood marketing muscle is ever-present, while the pull of blockbusters viewed in massive multiplexes is immense. And consumers are being saturated with information, publicity and informed opinion in greater quantities than ever before.

In such a sophisticated world, then, making a great movie plainly isn't enough.

"Marketing is very, very important to ensure that a film gets the



'Hilary and Jackie': failed to observe a few key marketing rules

results it deserves at the box office," said Peter Buckingham, director of Film Four, Channel 4's film distribution arm. Mr Buckingham spoke off the record at the seminar, but said afterwards that there was an essential issue which film-makers had to tackle as early as possible in the process.

Directors and producers have to decide who their audience will be. "Unless it's an action thriller and you're absolutely sure who is going to come and see the film, you'll want to check" - and that means using preview showings and focus-group discussions, he said.

Mr Buckingham would not be

drawn on individual film-makers, but another British industry source, well-versed in marketing, said directors and producers frequently had very little idea how to make their films succeed financially.

"There are too many people out there who think that, if they have a decent product, it will succeed on its own merits and from the reviews," she said.

There are three main conclusions that film marketers agree on.

First, media reviews play only a minor role in attracting crowds, and are less important than either the press or many directors think. "Word of mouth is by far the

most important factor," said Mr Buckingham.

Second, coverage in the main sections of the press, often achieved through the news pages and through feature articles, is very important, but can occasionally be a two-edged sword when it turns out to be of the negative variety.

Third, focus groups, the bane of many creative types who prefer to trust instinct, are becoming increasingly prevalent, even in the low-budget, specialist film market, and their influence is spreading backwards through the film-making process so that even scriptwriters may come under their influence.

The film industry source points to the example of *Hilary and Jackie*, this year's biopic of Jacqueline du Pré and her sister, as a film that fell foul of some of the key rules.

"The reviews were very good, and the marketing made a positive effort to open up a specialist film to a much wider audience," he says. "The posters were sexy and the trailer was positively raunchy, but they overplayed their hand."

Despite the reviews, the rest of the media coverage was negative, with many lovers of classical music boycotting a film they perceived to demean the cellist's memory, and the mass-market audience uninterested in the subject matter.

Then there was the problem of the title, with some potential viewers inevitably confused by the apparent reference to American First Ladies. The hardest blow of all was the release and success of *Shakespeare in Love* at approximately the same time. "There is room for only one arty, rather highbrow success at any one time," says Mr Buckingham.

In all, it seems the most important message is for film-makers to break out of the cosy circle of directors, producers and broadsheet reviewers, and step into the dangerous world of the out-of-town multiplex, tabloid feature writers and regional TV stations.

With that, they should add a dash of focus group and polling, and be prepared to change their product if necessary - just as the major Hollywood studios do. Either that, or keep their integrity and stay poor.

### THE WORD ON THE STREET

DYLAN JONES, former Waggon Group Editor who only recently became a father, has another new baby - GQ - although strictly speaking it's less a baby than a troublesome 10-year-old. Jones reportedly beat off a challenge from *Esquire* editor Peter Howarth and Alex Renton, a features writer at the *Evening Standard*, to succeed James Brown as editor of the *Conde Nast* men's monthly.



CHANNEL 5's latest response to the Broadcasting Standards Commission's worries that its late-night programming is getting grubbier than the contents of a Soho dry cleaner's in-tray? Coverage on 6 May of the first-ever European male strip-tease contest, in *A Thong for Europe*.

NOT SUGGESTING for one nanosecond that Channel 4 is gloating about filching Test Match cricket from the BBC. But the sequence at the channel's summer schedule launch dealing with the forthcoming live coverage was accompanied by the Cardigans' song "Losing My Favourite Game". As they say at Lord's, that's just not cricket - well, not on the BBC at any rate.

SHOBHAIN McDONAGH, Labour MP for Mitcham and Morden, hosts a reception for fellow members at the House of Commons this evening to let them hear what Radio 1 does for Britain's youth - its social

issues programmes, news coverage and, above all, music. New music, dance, rap, indie - even, when taste takes a lunch break, Steps. Sadly MPs will have to take Radio 1's word for how fab it all sounds since they won't be able to hear so much as a bar of Billie. "We've been told we're not allowed to play any music in the Commons," says a Radio 1 spokesman, "which, since we're supposed to be telling them what we do, is a bit bizarre."

CHRIS EVANS is naff - official OK, so deep down we've known this from the moment the ginger one started making a career out of personal abuse and excessive talk about the size of his salary. But now the media agency Universal McCann reveals that TFI Friday is bracketed with shows to which, viewers say, "you get your ironing done". "In the same way that *Blind Date* went from must-see to naff," says Universal McCann's joint MD, Fiona Smalley, "TFI has gone through that curve."

JP 11/10/98



Reporting the war: Slobodan Milosevic understood the importance of the media long before the current war. But now that the bombs are falling, the diversity of opinion in the British press is in stark contrast to the monolithic view from Belgrade

## Pro-war, anti-war, or just anti-Labour?

THERE WAS something deeply symbolic about *The Observer* coming out in favour of the Nato bombing on Sunday with an editorial headlined: "There is no alternative to this war". In 1956 it was the same paper that incurred the wrath of advertisers and readers by opposing Britain's engagement in Suez. More boldly still, it accused Anthony Eden, the prime minister of the day, of misleading Parliament because he had refused to acknowledge covert Israeli involvement in the operation. The paper was factually right, as it subsequently turned out, but that didn't stop it suffering obloquy for its perceived lack of patriotism for years afterwards – even though Hugh Gaitskell's Labour party was also opposed to the war.



DONALD MACINTYRE

The *Observer*'s reverse is symbolic for several reasons. The first is that it is the left to liberal press, which has been most squeamish about war in the past, and which is now the most supportive of Nato. The notable exception last weekend was *The Independent* on Sunday, *The Observer*'s main rival for the liberal audience, which came out unequivocally against the war, arguing cogently that Nato was the wrong institution to be acting as the world's policeman. But otherwise *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and the pro-Labour tabloids *The Sun* and *The Mirror* (apart from the latter's Paul Routledge) have been supportive. *The Express* has also supported British involvement in the war, although more questioningly.

In this respect the left-of-centre press has broadly reflected the larger political community, in which the strongest support, naturally, is among Government backbenchers who believe in an "ethical foreign policy" and a new international order, in which military intervention to protect the oppressed is regarded as desirable. *The Times* and *The Telegraph* mirror the Tory front bench which – with reservations – has backed the Government. And the *Daily Mail*, of which more in a moment, reflects the Tory right, which has been the most condemnatory of the Nato bombing.

*The Observer*'s Suez history is a reminder of something else that has changed. There is much less flag-waving in editorialising and commentary on this war – at least in middle-market and upmarket papers – than there was during the Falklands war or even the Gulf war. Two of the most-read *Times* commentators, Simon Jenkins and Matthew Parris, are strongly opposed. True, *The Sun*, with its "Clobba Slobba" headlines is doing its best. But just as the support for the war is less gung-ho, so no one has yet turned on the editorialists and commentators who oppose the war to accuse

them of being disloyal or unpatriotic, let alone treacherous – even though the Serbian media is closely monitoring British coverage and regularly quotes articles which criticise the war effort.

In fact the opinions of commentators haven't necessarily been easy to call in advance, to judge by a sample from last week. Philip Stephens (the *Financial Times*) is pro, though wants ground troops involved; *The Guardian*'s Hugo Young is pro; *The Express*'s Andrew Marr is critical. *The Independent*'s Andreas Whitlam Smith is anti (and at least three of this paper's other columnists are pro), and the ubiquitous Roy Hattersley is "on the balance" pro.

The diversity and debate in the British press is just what contrasts it with a monolithic media in Belgrade, now Milosevic has shut down B92 radio and other independent services (on Saturday official Belgrade radio cheerfully reported that two pilots had been captured and four Cruise missiles downed, and that the Pentagon had "confirmed the losses").



Simon Jenkins (left) is anti-war; Roy Hattersley is pro – just



*Mail* would have been anything like as critical of a British military action if – say – Margaret Thatcher had been prime minister.

Partly, of course, this underlines the fact that for all Labour's success in wooing the hostile press, Tony Blair will never enjoy the umbilical relationship with it that Thatcher did.

In fact, we should welcome the diversity of opinion and debate on the war. However, you also can't help noticing in passing that when the right attacks a Labour government for making war, it's fair comment; but when the left criticises a Conservative government for making war, it's unpatriotic.

## Inside the Serb machine

Eleven years ago I got the call to work for Milosevic's propaganda machine. TV Serbia, the slate grey "bas-tille" as the Belgraders call the Soviet-style edifice in the middle of the capital.



MARCUS TANNER

Why me? There weren't many other candidates. In the still united Yugoslavia of those days resident Western reporters were few and far between. Most of my colleagues in the International Press Centre were portly middle-aged men in raincoats from the Communist bloc.

Slobodan Milosevic's new regime in Serbia, now a year in the saddle, decided it wanted a more "Western image". The Serbian Communists felt they were losing the propaganda war with their comrades in Croatia and Slovenia, who were always comparing their Western and "international" aspirations with what they called "Byzantine" Serbia.

There was another factor: Kosovo. Milosevic was planning big changes in Serbia's southern province, starting with the removal of the Albanian leaders and ending with the scrapping of Kosovo's autonomy. Why not show that Serbia was cosmopolitan and international, too, by starting a news programme in English?

And so *Vesti na Engleskom* (The News in English) was born, and with my public-school vowels I was the perfect man to read the script. I had some qualms about the idea but not many. As a new freelance in Belgrade no one in London was very interested in my stories in the autumn of 1988. My efforts to explain the logistics of the threat to Kosovo's autonomy down a crackling line to *The Independent*'s newsroom failed to

excite the editor at the other end of the line. Meanwhile TV Serbia, in the days before Milosevic bankrupted the place, was offering me hard cash. I did feel uncomfortable with the note of blatant chauvinism creeping into the Serbian news programmes about Albanians. But Milosevic's officials were loudly insisting all they wanted was "justice" for Kosovo Serbs and equality between Serbs and Albanians in the province.

We tried filming the first programme live. BBC-style, with me standing in front of the Skupstina, the Belgrade parliament, shooting into the wind. But the camera was so wobbly and I was so nervous that the result was awful, so we decided to do it TV Serbia style, pre-recording the news in the studio and using dull pictures of official buildings on the screen. That was how they did it on the main news programme at 7.30pm: stories from Croatia showed a grainy shot of a park in Zagreb, stories from Macedonia showed a red-brick building that may have been a parliament and stories from Kosovo showed a fuzzy block of flats.

In spite of that, *Vesti na Engleskom* turned into a real hit, and when I travelled round Serbia people were always delighted to find out I was the presenter. The big joke was



Slobodan Milosevic on the podium: his understanding of the media ensured the triumph of his coup in Serbia

whether they preferred my English or the American twang of my colleague, Michael.

The problems soon began. It was no dilemma reading out a script written by "Booky", as we nicknamed Mr Bukvic, the producer, and of course I took it as read that he was a member of Milosevic's League of Communists of Serbia. Management of the news had always been one of Milosevic's top priorities.

Back in 1987, when he staged his internal coup in the party, brutally overthrowing his mentor Ivan Stambolic, it was Milosevic's crucial understanding of the importance of the media that had ensured his triumph. He owed his rise from bureaucratic non-entity to popular hero to a single well-chosen remark in front of the TV camera in April of that year. Striding through a crowd

of Serbian demonstrators in Kosovo he turned to the camera and shouted "no one has the right to beat you", so breaking the old Communist taboo against making unscheduled populist statements.

So I knew the score. I even took it in good part when Booky's official translator, an old lady with enormous spectacles, translated the script into terrible English and made me read out twisted, ungrammatical phrases. Playing around with the party line was unthinkable, and even my protestations that they ought to trust my understanding of English fell on deaf ears. But by the end of 1988 the atmosphere frayed. More and more often we were arguing about the wording just before we trooped off to the studio. I felt like Lord Haw Haw, droning on in a public school voice about "Albanian na-

tionalists and separatists" (they weren't yet called terrorists) – the stock party line for any politician in Kosovo opposing the changes Milosevic was steamrolling through.

But at least Booky was an old comrade of the Tito vintage. True, he was sympathetic to the Milosevic line. But he believed that the new Serbian nationalism did not pose a fundamental threat to old Titoist Yugoslavia, or to the old Titoist slogan of "bratstvo i jedinstvo" – "brotherhood and unity" between Yugoslavia's many nations. He liked the new slogan, that a strong Serbia would create a strong Yugoslavia.

But when Booky faded out of the picture he was replaced by one of the new nationalist fanatics who seemed to be taking over everywhere, superciliously groovy, Jean-clad youths who loved to gass on about rock

bands, football and "chicks", but whose faces became distorted with rage if the conversation strayed off those tried and trusted topics to the rights of Albanians in Kosovo or Croatian secessionism. After a brief discussion about our Kosovo coverage ended with my new producer screaming at me in the TV Serbia bar I knew it was time to leave.

And my departure was timely. Soon the police were shooting over the heads of, and then at, Albanian demonstrators. It was no time to be sitting in a studio in Belgrade talking in wooden phrases about "Albanian nationalists and separatists". I hurried down to Pristina. There were gun battles going on in the streets of the Kosovo capital and Yugoslav tanks churning through the boulevards. This time *The Independent* did want the news.

## Star reporter leaves war zone

WHERE WAS CNN's million-dollar reporter and war-zone supernova Christiane Amanpour when the bombs dropped on Belgrade at the weekend? In Brussels.

Like many journalists from Nato countries, Ms Amanpour was asked kindly to leave the Serbian capital at the end of last week. She then decamped to Brussels to interview General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Commander, and decided to stay on for the briefing about the downed Stealth fighter. CNN could still call on two correspondents to file from Belgrade, of course. But the absence of the woman who has to come to personify the network's war-zone coverage in Bosnia and in Iraq has taken some of the lustre out of CNN's reportage.

Amanpour made her name as a reporter for CNN in Bosnia, sketching out the war from her near-permanent "home" for three years at the Holiday Inn in Sarajevo. She is credited by media co-workers with helping to secure news access to Srebrenica during the winter 1992/93 siege. She has since been sealed with a \$1m a year deal with CNN and last year she married Jamie Rubin, adviser to the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

It was this link to the US State Department that prompted suggestions that she represented a more vulnerable target than the average reporter in Belgrade, and so was pulled out. But a CNN spokesman said that she was expelled like many others. Amanpour yesterday travelled to the border between Kosovo and Albania, where she is now reporting on the unfolding refugee crisis. No doubt the network hopes that on her return to the front line she can help it to wrest back some of the initiative now arguably being enjoyed by Sky News. Its main Belgrade reporter Tim Marshall was also expelled on Friday, but he negotiated a way back in and was able, along with the BBC's John Simpson, to report from the site of the downed Stealth fighter on Sunday.

REYNS WILLIAMS

## The Street of Shame lives up to its name

Will Whitehorn went to the Press Gazette awards with high hopes. Then the fists started flying...

IN HER first year as editor of the Press Gazette, Philippa Kennedy has moved quickly. Its recent relaunch saw the masthead of the journalists' own newspaper redesigned, and the editorial copy has taken on a much livelier feel. So it was with a sense of great anticipation that I accepted her invitation to the press awards last Wednesday.

Despite the reputation of British journalism for its wit, flair and cleverness, the awards have never been renowned as a highlight of the year's social calendar. But as my taxi arrived at London's Hilton Hotel on Park Lane, I was intrigued to see whether Philippa had injected some life into them.

The evening started well. The massed elite of British print journalism were there (sadly, the overwhelming majority of them men), dressed in penguin suits

and laughing and chatting to each other. The stage looked brilliant; the backdrop was a huge mock-up of a Press Gazette front page, highlighting the appearances of Rory Bremner and the newsreader Nicholas Witchell at the awards. I silently congratulated Philippa as she stood up on stage after some vintage Bremner and introduced the main show itself – the Oscars of British journalism.

Almost immediately, the evening began to turn ugly. I am no stranger to awards ceremonies and would be the first to admit that, whether they are celebrating public relations, marketing, music or corporate video, there is often a bit of heckling and the odd light-

hearted boo or hiss. But nothing prepared me for the ill-tempered, bad-natured and frankly juvenile scenes that followed almost every presentation.

At best, the award-winners were greeted by desultory applause (apart from the triumphant cheering of their own tables) and even this modest handclapping had dried up by the time they reached the stage to collect their gongs. At worst, there were boos and heckles.

This malevolent atmosphere built up to a climax when *The Guardian* was awarded the prize of newspaper of the year. There were shouts and heckles as many people booed the editor of the winning paper all the way to the stage.

As the main part of the evening drew to a close, I looked forward to wandering over to the bar for a chat with some old friends. Sadly, that had to wait a while as Neil Wallis, the editor of *The People* insisted on taking the stage and launching a full-scale attack on the "broadsheet bastards" who had "robbed" *The Mirror* of its accolade, and generally oppressed the tabloids. Even though I sympathised with his position, I couldn't forget how the tabloids had criticised Jarvis Cocker for a similar protest at the Brit awards.

By the time I reached the bar, tension was mounting. Sensibly, the few women at the ceremony had retreated into the corners of the room. I have always found it

fascinating that men, who dominate the industry, have managed to propagate a myth that senior women in journalism are catty, bitchy and unsympathetic to their honourable profession.

So it seemed to prove a point that while the women were laughing and enjoying themselves chatting to their colleagues on rival papers, the men were getting aggressive and jostling each other. They weren't even funny with their drunken abuse of one another.

As I talked to a friend, a journalist walked by and snarled that he was surprised to see that person there. One senior female executive commented to me: "I

feel as if I've stumbled into a stag night that has gone wrong. The worst thing is that my own editor, one of the nicest guys you could possibly meet, has completely changed character in the last half-hour."

I went back to the bar to talk to Stuart Higgins, the former editor of *The Sun*. Around us, at least two fights broke out, blood began to flow, and I saw one of the glass awards – the receipt of which is supposedly the high-point of a journalist's career – smash into pieces on the floor. I left, thus missing out on two points, such as the two editors who squared up to each other and chanted playground insults.

The next day I spoke again to Stuart. He said: "If last night's

events had happened at a showbiz or footballers' party, we would have stuck it on the front page of *The Sun* under the headline: 'Savages'. As it is, I don't think I'm going again."

I know how Stuart feels. I was left feeling sorry for Philippa, who put a lot of effort into ensuring that the night was a success. But, worse, I was stunned to see the cream of British journalism behaving with so little grace.

It is time the gentlemen who inhabit the Street of Shame ask themselves a few searching questions before they tell the rest of the world how to put their houses in order.

The author is corporate affairs director of the Virgin Group



Guinness's latest campaign sees a return to the era of historic images. By Richard Cook

# This ad is good for you

Some things divide us and others make us all the same. Well, three things, really. As Benjamin Franklin might have said, we will always be united by death, taxes, and our admiration for Guinness advertising.

Unfortunately, the hold the third of these has traditionally enjoyed over our collective consciousness has taken something of a beating in the last couple of years. But latter-day salvation has come in the form of two striking TV commercials of genuinely cinematic proportions.

"Swimback", which features an ageing Italian swimmer in a race against a pint of Guinness, has just been named ad of the year at the British Television Advertising Awards. The follow-up, filmed in a hazy black and white and finished off by the same post-production facility that worked on *Titanic*, tracks a group of surfers waiting for the ultimate wave.

The company that announced itself to the British drinking public in 1929 with the bold, brave and ultimately unsubstantiated slogan Guinness is Good For You; the company whose "Man With a Girder" poster now has pride of place in the Victoria & Albert museum; the company that introduced an obscure Dutch actor named Rutger Hauer to a perplexed and thoroughly pleased British public - that same company suddenly started, in advertising terms, to have a very hard time of it indeed.

The first hiccup arrived along with an incomprehensible (well, even more incomprehensible than usual) TV campaign directed by the maverick film director Tony Kaye. Shot in black and white, these films eschewed the conventional product shot favoured by most ads. Instead we got a pensioner, pictured at home with his budge, his goldfish and a pair of false teeth stored proudly in a jar.

We watched the old man dressing methodically for a wedding and then the Pete Townsend quote "Hope I Die Before I Get Old" flash up on to the screen. We saw the action then cut quickly to the steps of a register office. Again we saw the old man, only this time he was pictured arm in arm with his new wife, a heavily pregnant blonde who couldn't possibly have been much more than a quarter of his age.

The strapline for this ad, as for the whole campaign, simply read "Not Everything in Black And White Makes Sense". It also left a nation, even an nation accustomed to eccentricity in Guinness advertising, scratching its collective head.

Two departures quickly followed. Tony Kaye ducked out of ad directing and headed for Hollywood to make his first feature film, *American History X*. Meanwhile the Guinness advertising account left Ogilvy &



"Swimback", featuring an ageing Italian swimmer racing against a pint of Guinness has just been named ad of the year

Mather, only its fourth ad agency in 72 years, in favour of Abbott Mead Vickers, the BT to Volvo shop that is now the largest in the UK.

"They arrived a year ago at a time when Guinness was undergoing considerable corporate upheaval as part of the creation of Diageo (formed by the merger of Guinness and Grand Met) and they came with an ambitious plan to make Guinness a brand with a 10 per cent share of the UK beer market within 10 years," explains Hugh Derek, who now looks after the account at AMV. Unfortunately, Guinness had only 4.5 per cent of market share.

But then, the brand was at a cross-roads. For years it had occupied a distinct place in the nation's bars by virtue of the simple fact that it wasn't either lager or bitter. Its advertising - from the chess set favoured by Rutger Hauer to the Toucan invented by the crime writer Dorothy L. Sayers - merely had to feature the colours black and white to get its point of difference across. Things are no longer so simple. There are now, whisper it in Park Royal or Dublin, other stout brands available on the market.

"Our job was to reinforce the brand's distinctiveness but also to stop Guinness being viewed simply as a quiet Sunday afternoon pint," says Derek. "We wanted to make the brand more youthful, to get more of the St Patrick's Day feeling into Guinness-drinking all year round."

Their solution is just two commercials old. But already it has

restored a nation's faith in the efficacy of Guinness advertising, and has pushed the dark drink's market share through the magical 5 per cent barrier.

The first achieved this despite starring a sixty-something, bald Italian swimmer with the build of Mussolini and a nifty line in retro swimming-trunks. It was the most successful ad, AMV insists, that Guinness has ever shown. The latest ad - released earlier this month - looks by contrast like something out of the Calvin Klein archive, with its grainy black-and-white images of surfers waiting to catch the cas-

ing again. So they let us get away with our obsessive attention to detail without going on about the budget or whatever, like some clients. For the swimmer film, for instance, we knew we wanted a guy that looked a bit like Mussolini but we didn't know how to find him. In the end we got to the location and then just wandered out along the beach and lined up more than 300 random Italians before seeing this guy surfing who looked just right.

"He didn't speak any English, but seemed well up for the role. Then in the surfing film, again we cast it out there, this time in Hawaii. But the

main thing there was that I wanted to create not just a Fifties look, but also a sort of Delacroix effect, which was where the horses came in."

The horses, in fact, were supplied after a month in the same post-production facility that took care of *Titanic*. The ad itself took a *Titanic*-like whole year to make it to the screen from the moment it was first presented to the client. Most ads take eight weeks.

Now, Delacroix, *Titanic* and hot young directors are not the staples of most new advertising campaigns. Guinness is different. But then, Guinness's best advertising has always revelled in that difference.

"I think the new work, and certainly the swimmer racing home against the time the drink is being poured, are right up there with the very best Guinness ads," concedes Robert Campbell, a creative partner at one of London's most exciting ad agencies, the Virgin to Vauxhall shop Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe.

"The campaign had lost its way and these bring us back to the sort of Guinness advertising we expect. But then I always think there is something strange about Guinness compared to almost every other of the great, long-running advertising campaigns. For Volkswagen, for instance, the advertising starts with the fact that here is a great car. Guinness is the only thing I can think of where the advertising has always been miles better than the product it's promoting. And long may that continue."

Already the campaign has restored a nation's faith in the efficacy of Guinness advertising

ading 40ft waves. Then suddenly, though the magic of television, the waves are transformed into a succession of thundering white horses.

Both ads are beautifully filmed, but then there is nothing new there. Guinness ads of the past have been directed by *Hugh Chariots of Fire* Hudson, by Alan *Midnight Express* Parker and by Ridley *Blade Runner* Scott, among others.

More importantly, though, the new commercials have already breathed new life into a brand that had started to taste, almost for the first time, what it is like to make do with merely serviceable advertising.

## Perfect jobs for boys (and girls)

Today, children want to grow up to be football journalists. By Rhys Williams

IT BEGAN with a classified ad a fortnight ago. "Britain's leading football magazine," it read, "has a very rare opening for a staff writer... What you need is an unrelenting fascination with the world's greatest game and the desire and dedication to become an excellent magazine writer. What you do not need is a vast amount of experience or to be a man."

Nearly a thousand CVs (971 to be exact) and covering letters have since been hauled across the threshold of *FourFourTwo's* offices in Teddington, west of London. "We're beginning to wonder whether this is the most popular job ever advertised," says Matt Trench, the editor, who is trimming the initial 971 to an interview shortlist of 15.

As the ad says, the job will entail everything from big-name interviews to features and checking next month's television fixtures. And all for a salary of less than £20,000. It will be for love, not money.

Des Lynam once said that if you're no good at sport then you end up writing about it, adding that he opted for television because he couldn't write. But you get Des's point. Short of playing for a living, what greater pleasure can there be for a football nut than being paid to indulge the obsession by becoming a football writer?

But the extraordinary enthusiasm that has poured through *FourFourTwo's* letterbox is about more than a fan's love for the game. The legion of applications says something about the status the game occupies, particularly as a sphere of media endeavour.

It is the sort of response that a couple of decades ago would have greeted an ad for a job at the *NME* or *Melody Maker*. The rock'n'roll of the time, was, well, rock'n'roll, a scene that stood for creative endeavour, glamour and a lot of money. Today football has that privilege.

Italy '90, the Taylor report, the all-seater stadia it spawned and the hundreds of millions of pounds that television tipped into the trough have all played their part in purging the English game of the grimy associations that reached a nadir with the disaster at Belgium's Heysel stadium.

The game has now been cleansed, purified and, like the favoured tipples of a Chelsea

season ticket holder, gently carbonated.

All that has changed the way the game is written about. Players and managers greet with suspicion any suggestion of an intellectualisation of the game. However, there is no doubt that Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch* and the *My Favourite Year* anthology he later edited legitimised football as a quasi-literary phenomenon.

But the major change has been wrought by the influence of the fanzines, particularly *When Saturday Comes*. Since its launch in 1987 WSC recognised that the world of football was not confined to the 90 minutes of action, groin



Main attraction: *FourFourTwo*

strains or boardroom machinations that had hitherto preoccupied media coverage.

Instead, it recognised that football was life-consuming. Noting that the title was borrowed from an Undertones song, Hornby wrote of WSC: "How did these people know that football and pop music were the two most important things in life?"

Several fanzine writers have since moved on to nationals - John Duncan and Amy Lawrence (a former *FourFourTwo* staffer) are both at *The Observer*, while Harry Pearson writes for *The Guardian*. But fanzines' major contribution is to imbue football journalism with wit, enthusiasm and interest, to square the game with the preoccupations of the fan. Now newspapers are also prepared to discuss players' haircuts and dress sense and the music that leads teams on to the pitch (Z Cars at Everton, for instance).

The message today is that anyone can do this, even if at *FourFourTwo* that someone is one in a thousand.

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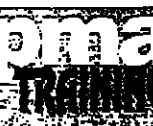
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## TELEVISION REV

6 PM  
7 PM  
8 PM  
9 PM  
10

**Business Breakfast**  
**8.00 Kilroy (S) (T)**

**5.30 Open University:** Frederick the Great and Sans Souci (24/7/53), 6.33 The Revolution (24/7/53), 7.00 Polka Dot Shorts (23/4/53), **7.10 The Silver Burnby** (8/4/52/53), 7.30 Inch-1/4th Private Eye (3/9/53/52), **7.55 The Bow Master** (8/4/10/8), **8.20 Buried Treasure** (5/3/73/2), **8.4 Blue Peter** (3/3/00/17), **9.30 Goodbye and the Ghost** (5/3/73/2), **9.55 Student Bodies** (19/7/30), **10.00 Teatime** (5/7/29).

**10.30 Film Shipwreck!** (Steven Spielberg 1978, US). Children drama about a family that gets shipwrecked off the coast of Alaska. Robert Loggia (Papa), (S) (7) (24/5/58).

**12.10 Birds with Tony Soper** (S) (7) (2/20/81), **12.30 Working Lunch** (7/4/50), **1.00 Oakie Doke** (8/4/04/89), **1.10 The Leisure Hour** (S) (9/4/71/89), **2.30 Sporting Greats** (S) (2/3/52/150), **2.40 News**, Regional News: Weather (7) (3/7/21/50), **2.45 Westminster** (4/5/92/4), **3.20 News**, Regional News: Weather (7) (4/20/87/5), **3.42 The Village** (7) (9/5/01/2), **3.55 Kays** (9/9/41/7), **4.12 Penny, Steady, Cock** (S) (7) (3/4/37/2), **4.35 Esther** (S) (7) (2/2/55/5), **5.50 Whodunnit House?** (S) (2/7/61/55/5).

**6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air**. Will and Carlton get themselves into trouble when a football game ends up with Geoffrey losing his job (S) (7) (24/5/58).

**6.25 Heartbreak High**. It's the end-of-term dance and Kurt and Thelma get close while she experiments with pills. And we all know where that leads: children (S) (7) (15/5/53).

**7.10 The O Zone**. Catalytic, Beverly Knight and Chaka Khan have CDs and gigs to plug (S) (7) (2/5/55/5).

**7.30 Counterblast**. Erin Pizzey, founder of the first women's refuge in Britain, challenges the orthodox feminist view that men are responsible for all domestic violence (S) (6/53).

**8.00 The House Detective**. The team investigate the history of Thirty Church Square, an incongruous house of Georgian townhouses in south London (R) (S) (5/5/49/49).

**8.30 Your Money or Your Life**. A sceptical Alvin Hall offers financial advice to a couple contemplating becoming self-sufficient (S) (4/759).

**9.00 Stephanie and Son**. A game of Scrabble and a visit from the vicar inspire Albert and Harriet to take up journalism (R) (7) (7/337).

**9.30 Close Up! Daniel Bleshford – Welcome to the 21st Century**. Profile of the designer of the Spiral, the controversial extension to London's Victoria and Albert Museum. The Polish-born architect secured his international reputation with a commission to design a Jewish Museum in Bern (S) (7/23/20).

**10.20 Getting Clean – the Truth about Housework**. Couples and how they share domestic chores (S) (3/27/27).

**10.30 Newsmight** (7) (3/5/58).

**11.15 Standfield**. George debates whether to tell his girlfriend that he loves her (S) (7) (4/52/71).

**11.35 Standfield**. Jerry and George are accused of conspiring to injure Beatle Mickler (S) (7) (6/30/11).

**12.00 Dispatch Book** (2/5/51), **12.30 Open University: Free Body Diagrams** (7/3/50), **1.00 Diagrams** (1/7/83), **1.30 Sensing Intelligence** (4/2/52), **2.00 Schools**: GCSE: Science – English (3/6/57), **4.00 Languages**: España Viva 5 & 6 (2/4/0), **5.00 News**: Languages: Gardening and

**Open University:**  
SocSci (2417653) R 3A

**9.00 Seaside Street** (R) (30666), **1.00** The Big Breakout (78299).

**9.00 BRITISH Words and Music** (Norman Taurig 1940) US: A hilarious look of songwriters Rodgers and Hart. See *Film of the Day*, below (T) (9183808).

**11.15 Lost Animals** (834453), **1.30 Powerhouses** (3438), **12.00 Seaside Street** (T) (78534), **12.30 Switched** (R) (7) (72819), **1.00 Pet House** (T) (78382).

**1.30 FILM The Student Prince** (Richard Thorpe 1935) US: Mario Lanza was already building the bedroom scales by 1934 (his weight problem was eventually helped to kill him five years later), and only his voice was used in this film; harmless rendition of Swedish Romberg's popular operetta. The troubled Lanza was let out during filming, and the place as the prince was filled for barmaid Ann Bygh was taken by British leading man Edmund Purdom (T) (91214).

**3.30 Collector's Lot** (T) (301), **4.00 Fitzen to One** (S) (708), **4.30 Countdown** (S) (7) (3065330), **4.45 Ricki Lake** (T) (661321), **5.30 Pet Pascoe** (T) (672).

**6.00 King of the Hill**, **Animated rednecks**, Hank attempts to land a job, continued by entertaining a potential client (R) (S) (7) (655).

**6.30 Home Improvement**, **Bill** is disgraced by the inabilities of a doo-toe-door saleswoman (83247).

**6.55 Planet Pop** (T) (827459).

**7.00 Channel 4 News**, including sport and weather (T) (83601).

**7.25 Dovecote**, Paul Henry aged 22 and a staunch Unionist, is the youngest elected member of the new Northern Ireland Assembly; *Here, Britain*, the story (40520).

**8.00 Breakfast**, Jimmy tells a tale that he forged the degree certificate to become a teacher (T) (3030).

**8.30 Classic British Cars**, **Revealing the battle** for market supremacy during the 1950s between *Vauxhall* and *Ford* (father of the new 'British car' as such, but never mind) and how they attempted to out-sell the other (8387).

**9.00 BRITISH The Shape of Scotland Yard**, **Featuring** by-on-the-spot-color account of how Scotland Yard manifested his response to the Macpherson report on the Stephen Lawrence murder. See *Documentation of the Day*, below (T) (7189).

**10.00 Father Ted**, **Bishop Brennan** is due to arrive to investigate a case of suspected nude sleepwalking by Father Jack. How we laughed (R) (S) (7) (48393).

**10.30 Queer as Folk**, **Shari and Maria** visit their parents, and Maria introduces Cameron to his mother (T) (78504).

**11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show** (T) (23726).

**11.45 Fusion**, Two Gaelic-Celtic brothers in Gael, *Yermouth* ponder the decline in the tourist trade (T) (655229).

**12.15 Witness**, **The work** of missionaries in Uganda, Brazil, USA, and South Africa (R) (T) (82741).

**11.55 An (A) to Z of Wagner** (650344), **2.20 Jamhuri** (R) (S) (T) (2220257), **5.40 The Pink Panther**

**0 Sesame Street (F) (30566), 7.00  
(76285).**

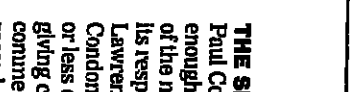
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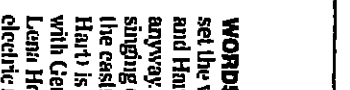
**KILLER IN THE FAMILY** (10pm BBC1, *right*) What's it like to be the father of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper (*right*).

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## SIEGE OF SCOTLAND YARD (9pm C4) Maybe

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